



**Juliet Stevenson, single mother**

page 23

**Christmas presents for lovers**

page 22

**TOMORROW**

**Schumacher and me, by Damon Hill**

**30**

The man who could take over from John Birt *media times* pages 41-44

Four Tory frontbenchers resign

## Blair rushes in reform of the Lords

By Philip Webster, James Landale and Roland Watson

THE Government will try to capitalise on the revolt by Tory peers against William Hague by pressing ahead more swiftly than expected with its Bill to reform the Lords, it emerged last night.

As four more Tory frontbenchers in the Lords resigned over Mr Hague's dismissal of Viscount Cranborne, Tony Blair was reported to be proceeding on the assumption that the deal brokered with the former Tory leader in the Lords was still in place.

Government sources said last night that the Bill scrapping the hereditary peers' voting rights and the White Paper setting out plans for the interim House and the Royal Commission to look at stage two of the reforms would be published soon after Christmas.

If the deal were adhered to, government officials said, it would mean the Royal Commission to report in time for legislation on the second stage of the reform, a partly elected chamber, to go through before the next general election.

In their apparent desire to speed the process, ministers even considered rushing the Bill and White Paper forward before Christmas, but they were told by the legislation draughtsmen that they could not complete the job in time.

Although Tories were sceptical about whether the Government really wanted to com-

plete the stage-two legislation so quickly, government officials said that that was part of the agreement Viscount Cranborne, Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, and Lord Weatherill, the former Commons Speaker, had made on behalf of Tory, Labour and crossbench peers.

"Conservative peers have indicated that they favour this agreement," a senior official said. "William Hague no longer seems to be standing in the way. We are working on the basis that this bill will be pushed through early next year, although we are not saying the Tories will not have the right to try to amend it."

The decision means that the Government accepts the idea of keeping 91 hereditary peers in its interim chamber before the new second House is constituted.

Lord Weatherill will table an amendment to that effect when the Bill reaches the Lords.

Mr Hague was strongly supported by many Conservative front and backbenchers yesterday in his decision to dismiss Lord Cranborne for going behind his back and making an agreement with ministers.

But it was also clear that Lord Cranborne had received the backing of Shadow Cabinet members for his efforts to reach an agreement. At a meeting two weeks ago they told him that the deal then on the table was unacceptable, but urged him to try to improve it.

What so incensed Mr Hague and made Lord Cranborne's dismissal inevitable was that he tried to "bounce" the leadership into the deal he had done. Mr Hague believed that the proposed deal would stop the Tories carrying out their proper functions of opposition in both Houses.

Critics of Mr Hague said yesterday that he should have been much closer to what was going on and should have understood the desire of Conservative peers to reach an honourable agreement. However, his friends said that Lord Cranborne had behaved in a "slippery" fashion and had too obviously enjoyed the behind-the-scenes plotting.

Mr Hague was striving yesterday to contain the rebellion

that hit him on Wednesday and eased the pressure on a Government struggling in the midst of the dispute over European tax harmonisation. His leadership of the party is not under immediate threat there would be few contenders for his job and two of the leading

ones, Michael Portillo and Chris Patten, are not MPs. Yesterday, however, there were four frontbench resignations among the Tory Lords and a Tory peer resigned the party whip to join the crossbenches. The most prominent among the Tory departures

was Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Lord Cranborne's deputy. He said he was disgusted at the way Lord Cranborne had been treated. Lord Bowness, Lord Pilkington and the Earl of Home joined him in resigning in protest.

Baroness Strange, an hereditary Scottish peer, said she was resigning the Tory whip to sit on the crossbenches in protest.

Lords in crisis, pages 10, 11  
Simon Jenkins, page 24  
Leading article, Letters, page 25

William Hague prepares to face the TV cameras at Westminster to defend his handling of the Tory crisis in the Lords



## Pressure mounts for UK rate cut

By Janet Bush  
Economics Editor

A SURPRISE cut in interest rates across Europe's single currency zone yesterday piled even more pressure on the Bank of England to lower British base rates again next week. The 11 European central banks that, in exactly four weeks' time, will give up control over their national interest rates to the European Central Bank, set the new euro interest rate at 3.0 per cent. This was down from the 3.3 per cent level in France and Germany that the markets had expected to be the launch level of a single euro interest rate.

Lower rates in Europe, coupled with two alarmingly weak surveys of economic activity in Britain yesterday, make the case for another base rate cut next week compelling.

The Confederation of British Industry called for another 0.5 per cent cut in base rates after publishing a survey showing the sharpest fall in confidence on Britain's high streets for at least 15 years.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply reported the first monthly decline in Britain's service industries in November since July, 1996, when its survey began.

Michael Saunders of the American investment bank Salomon Smith Barney/Citibank said he believes that the British economy is already in recession having slowed more sharply than anyone in the City or the Bank of England had expected.

In response to the gloomy news at home and lower rates across the Channel, financial markets started pricing in more substantial UK base rate cuts over the months to come.

Rates cut, page 29

## Police lose cash claim

Police officers who suffered severe mental trauma as a result of attending to victims of the 1989 Hillsborough soccer stadium disaster are not entitled to compensation, the House of Lords ruled.

The Law Lords overturned a Court of Appeal decision in October, 1996, that four officers should receive damages for being exposed to excessively horrific events such as were likely to cause psychiatric illness.

TV & RADIO	54.55
WEATHER	28
CROSSWORDS	28.56
LETTERS	25
ORBITARIES	27
SIMON JENKINS	24
ARTS	32.40
CHESS & BRIDGE	53
COURT & SOCIAL	26
LAW REPORT	47.48
MEDIA	41.44
EDUCATION	45.47

## Britain puts trust in France after Lafontaine tax mauling

FROM JILL SHERMAN  
IN ST MALO

TONY BLAIR arrived in St Malo last night to try to re-establish his authority in Europe following a bruising week where Britain has found itself sidelined by a Franco-German alliance in the row over tax harmonisation.

The Prime Minister made clear to President Chirac at the opening of the Anglo-French summit in Brittany that Britain would continue to oppose any attempts to remove the veto on EU tax issues, or to harmonise income or business taxes.

But in an attempt to shore up relations with the French, Mr Blair also tried to play down the issue which has threatened to undermine Britain's relations with its other European partners. The Prime Minister's spokesman said that the summit was about building up relations with the French through a series of initiatives on defence, transport and the millennium

bug. "We will show that over the last 18 months we have transformed relations with France and they are extremely good and strong," said the spokesman.

It is clear that Mr Blair is determined to strengthen his alliance with the French at a time when socialist leaders, and Germany in particular, are trying to push for a high tax, high spend European policy. Today George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, will sign an Anglo-French agreement on the armed forces and Mr Blair will agree with President Chirac to set up a taskforce to co-ordinate activities over the millennium bug in the next few months concentrating on transport and technology links. Tony Blair was also hopeful of securing formal backing from President Chirac to reopen talks on Duty Free shopping which is due to end on June 30 next year. Britain is backing an initiative by Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, to delay abolition of Duty Free by

five years. The French have already indicated that would be sympathetic.

But the row on taxes initiated by Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister still threatened to overshadow the summit and the topic is expected to be discussed this morning between Gordon Brown and his counterpart Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Mr Blair will also discuss the issue with Lionel Joseph, the French Prime Minister this morning. Earlier this week France appeared to back Germany's calls for removing Britain's veto on EU taxes by calling for the issue to be decided by qualified majority voting rather than unanimity. On Wednesday it emerged that proposals to remove the veto from EU tax decisions may be tabled in a new round of EU treaty negotiations in Finland next September.

Yesterday morning Herr Schröder, whom Mr Blair has regarded as an ally, threw his weight behind calls

from his Finance Minister to ditch the veto. In a newspaper interview he said that majority voting on tax matters should be part of wider reforms of EU decision-making tied to enlargement. Last night, Mr Blair's spokesman tried to pour cold water on the issue, claiming it had been whipped up by media hysteria. "It's not an A list issue," he said and pointed out that there was no prospect of the veto being removed as this could only be done if all EU countries agreed. He argued that at least nine countries had already indicated they would not agree to complete tax harmonisation. And he described claims that the French Finance Minister had backed the move for harmonisation as "complete balls".

Mr Robertson was meeting his defence counterpart last night to try to agree a set of principles for Europe's new defence policy.

EU super-army, page 6



## Nimmo critically ill

THE actor and radio personality Derek Nimmo, above, was critically ill last night amid fears that he suffered a brain injury after a fall at his home.

The panellist for BBC Radio 4's *Just A Minute* has not regained consciousness since he fell down the stairs at his London home on Wednesday night. Staff at the Aikinson Morley Hospital in Wimbledon, southwest London, said his condition was critical and the next 48 hours would be crucial to his recovery.

Mr Nimmo's wife Pat and one of their sons were at his bedside.

## Oxford fees protest challenges university

By Adrian Lee

A REBELLION over tuition fees at Oxford University is gathering momentum, with students at two more colleges risking suspension by refusing to pay.

Undergraduates at Somerville and St Hilda's Colleges said yesterday that they would defy today's deadline.

At St Hilda's a lone student, Laura Paskell-Brown, 18, is refusing an order to pay the £1,000 fee and said she was prepared to be sent down rather than give in. The defiance is strongest at

Somerville, where 12 students are threatening to join Kate Atkinson and Alice Nash of Balliol, by ignoring the demand.

The university is preparing to take a hard line by barring the students from using library, laboratory and other facilities from the beginning of next term. Ultimately, students who refuse to pay will not be permitted to sit first-year examinations.

"The regulations are absolutely clear," said a spokesman. "We can impose suspensions - that is what the statute says." He said the protest was

small. "There is some dissent but there is no uprising."

The students involved said they were prepared for a long fight. Although a group at St Hugh's College, which had threatened non-payment, capitulated this week, the remaining protesters were standing firm yesterday.

Impending martyrdom has buoyed support for the small band. Students who have said they would show solidarity in other ways - demonstrations planned include an occupation of university premises. Potential Oxford students attending interviews next

week will be approached and asked for their support.

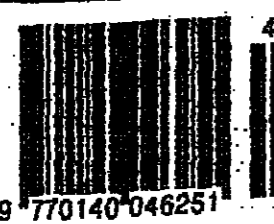
Miss Paskell-Brown, a politics, philosophy and economics student from Prestwich, Greater Manchester, said: "I intend to push this as far as I can. There is no way I will give up now. The fee system is against all my principles that education should be free." The daughter of a member of the Socialist Workers Party, she was also involved in protests against fees at her school, Holy Cross in Bury, where she organised a walkout. She said she was heartily

Continued on page 2, col 5

**Chopard**  
GENÈVE

**HAPPY HEARTS**

Rings in 18ct white gold with diamonds and colour stones ref. 82/2899-20 - 82/2900/0 - 82/2900/1 - 82/2900/3. Available at leading jewellers worldwide. London: Chopard Boutique, 14 New Bond Street, Tel. 0171/409 31 40. For further information, catalogues and stockists, please call 0171/446 63 63



9 770140 046251

# Full house vainly seeks noble spaniel who has had his day

We sought him here, we sought him there... Every body showed at the House of Lords yesterday, except the man who mattered: the viscount who compares himself with an ill-trained dog. Lord Cranborne had gone to ground. It was not so much Hamlet without the Prince, as Crufts without the Spaniel.

As the Upper Chamber opened for business, peers came crowding in. On the Government side, a full house led by Lady Jay — and a former Prime Minister, her fa-

ther, watching proudly: on the Tory benches Lord Archer was there from the start: former Cabinet ministers like the Lords Tebbit, Lawson and Waddington soon arrived. Lord Onslow, the one-man hooligan tendency, stalked in in a dark double-breasted suit, bright green shirt and big bow tie, perching himself by the throne like some outlandish giant African parrot and twittering away to Lord Garel-Jones. These are difficult days for Garel-Jones, whose habitual distinction is to look conspiratorial: now

everyone looks conspiratorial. Lady Strange, until yesterday a Conservative peer, bustled in and plonked herself emphatically down among the Independents on the cross-benches. A substantial lady, she displaced two existing Independents, the shock passing along the bench like one of those kinetic executive toys with steel balls: at the end of the bench, white-bearded Lord Hylton, normally a cross-bencher, was knocked off and over the gangway, into the government benches. All around the doors and at



the Bar of the House, curious peers peered, like motorists on the hard shoulder, gawping at an accident.

But no Spaniel. The House was obliged to carry on with its daily business as though nothing more important was going on. But they could not concentrate. Peers exploded with laughter when Lord McIntosh talked (in another context) about "spin doctors and control freaks".

It was not the missing Noble Spaniel but a Malaysian dissident whom peers were supposed to be discussing when Lord Moylan explained his worry that "the law is being used to detain or imprison him for the non-violent expression of his political views." But there were titters

anyway. The Foreign Office minister, Baroness Symons, said that among the rebels there had been suicide bombings, and a military helicopter had been shot down. Wry smiles — no matter that she was talking about Turkey. She referred to "the leader of a brutal terrorist group". Lord Onslow's face was a mask of impassivity.

Lady Jay became over-excited and, congratulating Lord Stratford-Cole on becoming the new Tory Leader in the Lords, trilled "since I became Leader we've had extremely personal

relations" — and then, digging herself out, dug herself deeper: "I'm sorry I allowed that to slip out."

Lord Rodgers reminded Stratford-Cole that his own Liberal Democrat party, like Labour, elected their leaders in the Lords. Tories don't. "If he wants to remove the possibility of being sacked while he still retains the confidence of his troops, he should get elected very quickly." Even the Tories could not help laughing.

Everyone praised the Spaniel. The Tory pack growled approval.

For this barbed congratulation Lord Stratford-Cole thanked their lordships, remarking ruefully that to speak of Lady Jay's "customary charm" was becoming "a Sicilian cliché".

Being a peer means not being afraid to admit you've taken a fall. He and his fellow Tories had had some hard knocks, said Stratford-Cole, "but when we've retired briefly to lick our wounds we shall return, high-tailed, to be the effective and thorough Opposition we are."

"High-tailed? They dock spaniels' tails, don't they?"

# Ulster deal crumbles after Blair leaves

Audrey Magee reports on a fresh row over decommissioning

THE Northern Ireland peace process became bogged down in a fresh row over decommissioning last night, less than 24 hours after Tony Blair negotiated a breakthrough.

Mr Blair flew into Belfast on Wednesday night and spent more than seven hours negotiating a deal between Unionists and Nationalists over key structures for the Northern Ireland Assembly. But the Prime Minister was screeching back in London yesterday morning when the deal began to unravel.

The Prime Minister secured general agreement on cross-border bodies and the number

of seats on the executive. The Ulster Unionist Party and the nationalist SDLP were yesterday to iron out the details of the agreement but by early evening had fallen out over what had been agreed.

Searnas Mallon, the deputy First Minister and SDLP deputy leader, said that both sides had agreed to have ten ministerial seats — three for the UUP, three for SDLP, two for Sinn Féin and two for Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party. Mr Mallon dropped his demand for a cross-border body dealing with trade and investment and settled instead for a less powerful body to promote

Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic as an ideal place for multi-national investment. But Unionists turned on David Trimble, the UUP leader and First Minister, insisting that the cross-border body on trade did not feature in the Good Friday Agreement.

To placate Unionists, the UUP again raised the spectre of decommissioning and said that Sinn Féin could not take their seats on the executive without IRA disarmament. John Taylor, the UUP deputy leader, said: "Let us make it absolutely clear, there will be no executive formed involving Sinn Féin members unless de-

commissioning of terrorist arms commences."

He said that the February deadline for the handover from power from London could slip. "That's always possible, it would not be a disaster," Mr Trimble, after a meeting with Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams, said. "It is still the case that we can't form the executive with unreconstructed terrorists."

Mr Adams accused the UUP leadership of caving in to hardliners. He said: "There has been some measure of progress reached and now some people are in denial and they are seeking to move backwards." Mr Adams said: "There is a moral and political imperative on David Trimble to settle all these matters before he leaves [for America today] and to have the structures in place in shadow form."

Mr Taylor said negotiations would be on-going, possibly for days. But he said there was no reason why the arrangements could not be finalised without Mr Trimble, who leaves Belfast for the United States and will then travel on to Oslo to receive his Nobel Peace Prize next Thursday.

The DUP blamed the fresh deadlock on the deficiencies of the Good Friday agreement. Ian Paisley Jr said: "There is so much ambiguity in it that whenever people want to get down to talking turkey, they can't do it."

# Patten hears worst of RUC

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

CHRIS PATTEN was left in little doubt as to the local attitude to the RUC yesterday as he drove into Crossmaglen, the heartland of Northern Ireland's republican movement.

Signs along the main road proclaimed "Disband the RUC" and "RUC — the military wing of Unionism". Mr Patten, as chairman of the independent commission reviewing the future of the RUC, was left in no doubt as to the locals' opinion of their police force.

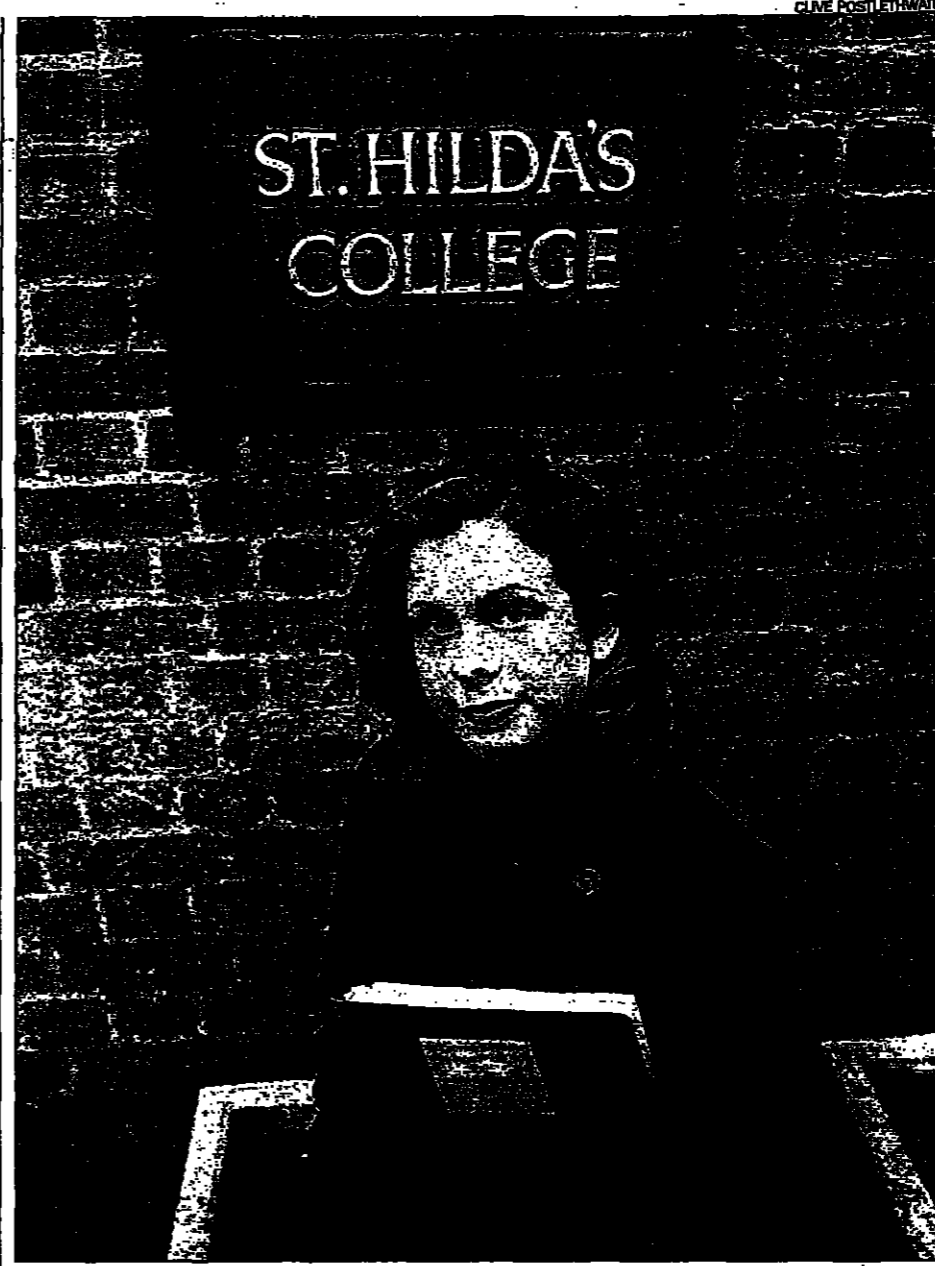
Crossmaglen in South Armagh is bandit country. Two miles from the border with the

Republic, the mountainous terrain and narrow back roads have provided perfect cover for the IRA fighting against the British presence in Northern Ireland. Republican terrorists have, over the last 30 years, killed about 60 RUC officers on patrol in South Armagh, using bullets, mortars and booby-trap bombs. The result is that, despite the peace process, South Armagh remains one of the most heavily fortified parts of the province.

A police and army barracks dominates the village of 2,500 people, most of whom are Ro-

man Catholics. Helicopters still fly supplies in and out.

Locals despise the RUC. About 80 people, including Sinn Féin Assembly members and former republican prisoners, gathered in the village community hall yesterday and for almost two hours spoke of police brutality, harassment and intimidation. Voices crackled with emotion as speaker after speaker told Mr Patten of being dragged from their houses at five in the morning by police officers who smashed their belongings with sledgehammers.



Laura Paskell-Brown: heartened that other students have joined the fees protest

# University fees challenged

Continued from page 1

—med that undergraduates from other colleges were involved. "I was feeling a bit isolated."

Most of the students said they could afford the fee but were refusing to pay to highlight the threat to education. They believe tuition fees could deter poorer students from attending university.

At Somerville, Alex Ismail and Frances Linehan, both 19 and studying Classics, are among those defying the university.

Mr Ismail, a Labour Party member, from Clapham,

south-west London, said: "We are pretty solid. Our dispute is with the Government, not the university."

He said he favoured a graduate tax rather than the current fee system. Miss Linehan's father, John, is a history tutor at Cambridge University.

The fees, introduced by the Government this year, are means tested — not all students are liable for the full £1,000 — and one protester, Upkhar Gata-Aura, is facing suspension over his refusal to pay just £8.

The Somerville students have the sympathy of the col-

lege authorities, tasked by the university with collecting the money.

Dame Fiona, the college principal, said: "I have sympathy with their thinking but I don't think their action is terribly well directed. We are all agents for the Government."

She said action against the students would be delayed until next term to allow discussions to continue.

If the dispute rumbles on, it is feared that the loyalties of tutors could be put to the test. Some of the staff have indicated privately that they would continue to teach non-payers.



Alex Ismail, front left, and Frances Linehan, centre, with other Somerville protesters

# Burial service for wreck victims of 1763

By Simon de Bruxelles

THE remains of more than 50 people who drowned when a treasure-laden packet ship was wrecked off the Cornish coast are to be buried today, 225 years to the day since her sinking.

More than 100 bones were recovered by divers searching for gold and diamonds reputed to have been on board the *Hanover* when she foundered in a storm on December 3, 1763. The captain, Joseph Sherburn, 25 members of his crew and about 30 wealthy merchants perished when the ship went down on her way to Falmouth from Portugal. There are believed to have been only two survivors.

The burial service will be held at St Agnes Church near the site of the wreck off Cligga Head, north Cornwall, and will be officiated by the parish priest, the Rev. Michael Adams. More than 200 people, including the mayors of Falmouth, Truro and Hayle, and representatives from the post office, police, coastguard, ambulance service and Navy are expected to be present.

Colin Martin, who organised the ceremony, began the task of trying to salvage the ship's treasure in the spring of last year. He raised hundreds of thousands of pounds to pay for the operation but so far shareholders have yet to see any return for their investment.

Among the items recovered is a gold ring inscribed with the names of Captain Sherburn's wife, Mary, and the date of her death, February 16, 1748, when she was 22.

Other relics found by the 30-strong team of divers are the hull, a pewter dinner service, more than 50 cannon guns and the bones.

All the relics were labelled and put on display in Falmouth but Mr Martin has now decided to lay the bones to rest and they have been put in a mahogany coffin.

Mr Martin said yesterday: "It is traditional for those who perish at sea to receive a proper burial if remains are ever found. I had always vowed that I would do that for Sherburn and his crew."

"It will be a very solemn occasion. I have lived and breathed the *Hanover* for so long now it is as if she and those who sailed and died with her have come to life. Now they will at last be able to rest in peace."

Mr Martin plans to dive on the wreck next summer to try to recover the treasure which he is still convinced is there. His company, Hydrasolve International, has paid for a commemorative plaque on the grave.

Suggested retail price

The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are trademarks of Intel Corporation

We've come top in the magazine awards at COMDEX in America for 'redefining portability' with our Portégé 3010CT. It won because it's small, stylish and powerful, and you can buy one for just £1595\* without VAT or £1874.13\* with VAT.

## CLEAR & SIMPLE OFFERS FROM TOSHIBA

For more information call your Toshiba Authorised Reseller or call Toshiba on 01952 828 828 or visit our website at [www.toshiba.co.uk/computers](http://www.toshiba.co.uk/computers)

# Cook tries to ease fears on Euro tax

By Roland Watson and Mark Henderson

THE Government mounted a concerted effort yesterday to damp down fears of harmonised tax levels across the European Union.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons that Britain was far from alone in opposing moves to integrate tax levels and end the veto currently held by all member countries.

He said he wanted to explode the "myths and mischief" of the European debate, which have put the Government at odds with some overseas ministers, notably Oskar Lafontaine, the German finance minister, and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, his French counterpart.

Mr Cook said: "Ghost stories about bogeymen can be very entertaining for children." He insisted that moves towards majority voting on

tax would not be accepted by member states.

Foreign Office officials said last night that they had contacted other EU states and had concluded that a majority would oppose losing the national veto. Given that such a move would require unanimity, they said the findings showed there was no chance of it happening.

However, German ministers in London yesterday for the state visit of President Roman Herzog offered only limited reassurance. Gunter Verheugen, the deputy foreign minister, said: "It is automatic that you need co-ordination in certain areas for EMU, including fiscal policy, tax policy, budget policy and monetary policy." However, there is no justification for any nervousness or for the excitement in the British tabloid press."

# MPs may lose parking perk

By Arthur Leathley and Alexandra Fegan

HUNDREDS of the most coveted free parking spaces in Britain looked doomed last night after John Prescott waged war on the privileges of his Parliamentary colleagues.

The Deputy Prime Minister had been warned by Whitehall officials that the Palace of Westminster might have to be exempt from his plans to charge companies for workplace parking, because of Parliamentary by-laws.

But Mr Prescott told officials drafting new laws to include a clause to ensure that some 700 car parking spaces at Westminster were subject to the proposed new charges. One minister said yesterday: "He saw no reason to exempt MPs. Of course they should set an example and use public transport."

The result is likely to provoke the ire of MPs, peers and

staff who park in the precincts of the Palace of Westminster and who would each have to pay up to £1,000 a year.

Under Mr Prescott's plans, each employer would have to disclose the number of parking bays used by staff and pay an annual fee, predicted to be £1,000 in central London.

The charge is expected to be imposed in the capital by the first directly elected Mayor of London, who will be allowed to raise hundreds of millions of pounds for transport projects.

However, Mr Prescott has been forced to exempt Parliament from any fines that may be imposed on employers for failing to pay the parking charge. Custom dictates that even the police do not have rights to enter Parliament but must have permission from the Sergeant at Arms.

الرجوع الى الصفحة 1

# Lords overturn police claim on soccer disaster

POLICE officers who suffered severe mental trauma as a result of attending to victims of the Hillsborough soccer stadium disaster are not entitled to compensation, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

In a landmark ruling the law lords overturned a Court of Appeal decision in October 1996 that four officers should receive damages for being exposed to "excessively horrific events such as were likely to cause psychiatric illness even in a police officer."

Lord Hoffmann said he felt great sympathy for the police officers, as for all "whose lives were blighted by that day at Hillsborough." But fairness demanded that the officers' claims were rejected. To extend the law would offend against an ordinary person's notion of justice, he said.

Lord Steyn said that in an ideal world, everyone who had suffered from the admitted negligence of South Yorkshire Police over the disaster in Sheffield in 1989 in which 96 people died would be compensated.

"But we do not live in Utopia: we live in a practical world where the tort system imposes limits to the classes of claims that rank for consideration, as well as to the heads of recoverable damages."

That resulted in "imperfect justice", he said. "But it is by

## Compensation would offend against people's sense of justice', Frances Gibb reports

and large the best the common law can do."

The ruling is the latest judgment in which judges have refused to broaden the circumstances in which people can claim compensation.

Lord Steyn yesterday urged radical reform and called on Parliament to sort out the "patchwork" of the law on psychiatric harm.

The ruling in the test appeal brought by the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire will come as a blow to the officers who brought the test cases as well as to 17 others involved in the task of dealing with injured and dying fans on the pitch.

But lawyers said the law had at least been clarified. Simon Allen, solicitor at Russell Jones & Walker, who represented the four officers throughout their nine-year battle, said: "We are naturally very disappointed that the law

lords decided that our clients were not entitled to seek compensation for their injuries. However, we are satisfied that the law has been clarified in respect of the rights of professional rescuers."

The Police Federation expressed disappointment. Fred Broughton, its national chairman, said that the law lords had "ignored the proven negligence of South Yorkshire Police."

The ruling by a three-two majority was given by Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann with Lord Goff dismissing the Chief Constable's appeal and Lord Griffiths dismissing it in respect of three of the officers.

The police officers had asserted that they were entitled to claim compensation for having been exposed to "unnecessary risk" of psychiatric injury as employees of the Chief Constable.

The damages claims were originally dismissed by a High Court judge, who held that the officers had not been placed beyond the normal call of duty and were not close enough to the actual scene of the tragedy - unlike 14 others who carried out immediate rescue work inside the spectators pens at the Leppings Lane end of the stadium where many fans were crushed.

Those 14 received a total of £1.2 million in agreed damages from insurers for the police, Sheffield Wednesday FC, and the club's engineers.

After that ruling, the Law Commission published a report recommending that some of the restrictions on claims for psychiatric illness resulting from traumatic incidents should be abandoned.

Yesterday's ruling was being keenly watched by relatives of the 96 fans who died at Hillsborough. A member of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, Rose Robinson described it as "sensible".



Another day to be jolly: Andrew Park celebrating at home with his dog, Pickles

# The man who is crackers for Christmas

Daily celebration is too much, reports Simon de Bruxelles

ANDREW PARK wished it could be Christmas every day, and made his wish come true. But after five years of living on a daily diet of mince pies, turkey and sprouts, he is seeking medical help to end his addiction to festive fare.

He is worried that he is endangering his health and becoming as round as Father Christmas after rising from 12 stone to 16 stone. And the 41-year-old bachelor fears that his non-stop enthusiasm for tinsel and crackers is to blame for his difficulty in finding a partner. He said: "They think it is good fun at first but I haven't been able to find anyone with the same passion as me about it."

Mr Park, a self-employed technician from Melksham, Wiltshire, first put up his Christmas decorations in the summer of 1993 to "cheer himself up". They have not been down since.

Each day begins with a breakfast of two mince pies and a bowl of Christmas pudding. At 11am he eats another three mince pies and drinks a glass of sherry while opening the three presents he wrapped for himself the previous evening.

For lunch, he has turkey sandwiches and chocolates topped up at teatime by more mince pies and a glass of brandy. Every afternoon at 3pm he watches the Queen's Speech on video. At night, he has a full Christmas dinner with sausages, bacon, roast potatoes and sprouts, Christmas pudding and brandy sauce.

"I need help," he admitted. "I still love Christmas every day but I know it is getting dangerous. I just want to cut down, there is no way I can give up altogether."

Mr Park claims to spend more than £15,000 a year on Christmas food, consuming 104 turkeys, 200 tins of Quality Street and 260 Christmas puddings. He spends £400 on decorations and £300 on his many sets of fairy lights. He is not short of visitors as every one gets a present, setting him back another £1,000. "It makes life far less dull," he said. His favourite food is Brussels sprouts: "I could eat bowls of them."

A spokeswoman for Weightwatchers last night advised Mr Park to join his local group and try to eat a more balanced diet. If he started now, she said, he could be back to his old weight for Christmas 2000.



Police officers suffered excessive trauma in the disaster

Law Report, page 47

## Quad bike warning after farm child dies

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

PROPER training of the driver and a crash helmet could have saved the life of a five-year-old boy who died on a quad bike ridden by his father, an inquest was told yesterday.

Sam Gregg was sitting on his father's lap when the four-wheeled motorcycle flipped over as it climbed a hill on the family's 154-acre farm near St Mellion in Cornwall. Sam died in hospital from head injuries and a broken neck shortly after the accident.

The boy's father, William Gregg, 47, said that he had used the quad bike to take a task of soil to a workman. Sam had come for the ride but on the way back they had to drive up a steep slope.

"The quad started to slip back and the front went into the air. After that I can't remember what happened. When I came to, Sam was lying a few yards away from me. It was obvious he was badly injured."

He picked up his son and ran with him to their farmhouse. Joanna Fitzgerald, of the Health and Safety Executive, said the accident could have been avoided by a relatively simple and inexpensive half day's training and the wearing of crash helmets. "Other users must take heed."

A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

## Milkman fined £250 over boy's flood death

By PETER FOSTER

A MILKMAN whose 14-year-old helper was drowned after he ignored warnings and drove his van into a flash flood was fined £250 and given six penalty points on his licence yesterday.

Vincent Gallagher, 34, and Carl Giles, 14, were swept away by the River Leam as they set out on a milk round in April this year at the height of the Easter floods, which left thousands homeless. Gallagher was pulled to safety by a policeman, but Carl, a non-swimmer, died in the water.

Yesterday Gallagher was told he was responsible for the death of the boy, and convicted of careless driving at Warwick Crown Court. However, he was cleared of the more serious charge of causing death by dangerous driving.

The Recorder, John Saunders, QC, said he could not be

swayed by the emotion which had surrounded the death and had taken into account the unusually severe driving conditions. "In assessing the appropriate sentence I have to ignore the tragic death of Carl Giles who died as a result of your carelessness," he said.

However, the family of the boy, who were in court, said they were dismayed by the sentence. His mother, Carol, standing in tears outside the court, said: "Justice has not been done. That man could go out next year with another young lad and do the same thing and get another six points on his licence."

In the three-day trial, the prosecution had alleged that Gallagher had driven "in a crazy way" as he approached the flood caused when the River Leam burst its banks between the villages of Eathorpe and Princetorpe on the Foss Way in Warwickshire.

Colman Treacy, QC, for the prosecution, said that Gallagher had ignored clear signs that the road was impassable, including two stranded lorries. One driver told him he had decided it was too dangerous to ford the foaming waters which had reached five feet above road level.

Gallagher, who is married and lives in Coventry, said the van had quickly filled with water. He managed to escape through the driver's door, before hearing the boy say he could not swim.

## Solicitor slept with client

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SOLICITOR told yesterday how he fired a married junior colleague when she revealed that she was pregnant after an affair with a client.

Richard Knaggs said that he had been unaware that Katherine Scaife was personally involved with Wayne Dixon. He told an employment tribunal in Middlesbrough that he had initially believed Mrs Scaife when she had denied claims by Mr Dixon's wife about the affair. But later a lawyer acting for the wife complained to him about Mrs Scaife's conduct and she was seen getting into her lover's car on a day when she was supposed to be helping her sick mother.

The last straw came when a police officer came to Mr Knaggs's offices in Redcar, asking to interview Mrs Scaife, 39, a mother of three, about an alleged assault on Mrs Dixon. Mr Knaggs telephoned Mrs Scaife at her home in Whitby

and asked why she had been at the couple's house. He told the hearing: "In response to that question she replied that she had a right to speak to the father of her child. I said, 'You are fired.' I am not proud of that response, but I was very, very cross."

Mrs Scaife, who had a daughter now 15 months, is claiming compensation from Mr Knaggs, alleging that she was discriminated against for having a baby. The tribunal continues.

MOST STORES NOW OPEN SUNDAYS

## BRITAIN'S BIGGEST CHOICE THIS CHRISTMAS

# The Link

### Latest Internet Fax Machine

**FEATURES THESE BENEFITS:**

- Send faxes for the cost of a local telephone call
- Send messages direct to a recipient's e-mail address
- Receive e-mails, which are printed out like a normal fax

**SAGEM PLAIN PAPER INTERNET FAX MACHINE WITH ANSWER MACHINE**

- 22 minutes digital recording time on answer machine
- 50 name, number and e-mail address memory
- Built-in hands-free speaker phone
- Model: 3901

NEW 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION

**£299.99**

**PLAIN PAPER FAX WITH BUILT-IN ANSWER MACHINE**

NEW HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

**BETACOM**

- 12 minutes digital recording time on answer machine
- 50 speed dials
- Model: PPF250

THE LINK PRICE **£199.99**

**PLAIN PAPER FAX WITH BUILT-IN ANSWER MACHINE**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION

**SAGEM**

- 11 minutes digital recording time
- 10 one touch, 30 two touch speed dials
- Model: 350N

THE LINK PRICE **£249.99**

**PLAIN PAPER FAX WITH BUILT-IN ANSWER MACHINE**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION

**PHILIPS**

- Answering machine with 15 minutes digital recording time
- 60 speed dials
- Model: Magic Vox

THE LINK PRICE **£299.99**

**MULTI-FUNCTION FAX MACHINE**

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION

**PANASONIC**

- Digital answering machine with 18 minutes recording time
- PC printer, scanner and fax modem
- Model: KX1B30E

THE LINK PRICE **£349.99**

**SAGEM FAX MACHINE**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION

between fax and telephone calls

Model: COMPACT FAX E1959

SAVE £20 THE LINK PRICE **£99.99**

**PHILIPS FAX MACHINE**

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION

between fax and telephone calls

A built-in copier function

Model: MP221 Fax E14899

SAVE £20 THE LINK PRICE **£129.99**

**THE EASY ROUTE TO THE RIGHT FAX MACHINE**

APR 29 1999

Part of DSG Retail Ltd

...may lose king perk

# CUNNY'S

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST IN LAUNDRY, DISHWASHERS & REFRIGERATION

**NEW THIS WEEK**



# ARISTON

EXCLUSIVE TO CURRY'S

**EXCLUSIVE!**

**INTEREST FREE OPTION ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £200 PLUS NEXT DAY DELIVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK\***

## WASHING MACHINES & WASHER DRYERS

### FEATURES INCLUDE

- 'A' Rated Wash Performance - provides unbeatable wash results every time.
- 23 Programmes - a wide choice of wash cycles for maximum flexibility.
- Variable Thermostat - temperatures can be set to protect garments and improve overall performance.
- Anti-Crease Facility - restricts folding and ensures less creases resulting in easier ironing.
- Delicates Wash Cycle - a gentle and careful cycle to protect sensitive garments.
- Extra Rinse Facility - to ensure cleaned garments are thoroughly rinsed.



- ARISTON** 1000 Spin 'Select' Washing Machine 18 Programmes. Model 5800. Price Excluding Trade-In £269.99. **£20 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£249.99** 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*
- ARISTON** 1200 Spin 'Select' Washing Machine 23 Programmes. Model 5120. Price Excluding Trade-In £299.99. **£30 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£269.99** 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*
- ARISTON** 1200 Spin 'Select' Washing Machine 23 Programmes. Model 5120. Price Excluding Trade-In £299.99. **£30 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£299.99** 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*
- ARISTON** 1300 Spin 'Advantage' Washing Machine 'A' Rated Wash Performance. Model A1700. Price Excluding Trade-In £419.99. **£40 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£379.99** 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*
- ARISTON** 1600 Spin 'Select' Washer Dryer 20 Programmes. Model SMD1000. Price Excluding Trade-In £379.99. **£30 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£349.99** 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*
- ARISTON** 1200 Spin 'Advantage' Washer Dryer 'A' Rated Wash Performance. Model AWD1200. Price Excluding Trade-In £469.99. **£40 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£429.99** 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**ARISTON**  
NEW & EXCLUSIVE  
**1100 Spin 'Advantage' Washing Machine**  
Model A1100.  
Price Excluding Trade-In £379.99.  
**£30 TRADE-IN TRADE-IN PRICE**  
**6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\***  
**£349.99**

## ADVANTAGE

A premium collection of innovative new appliances that combine stylish design with the latest technology.

## SELECT

A stylish new range designed to provide real value for money with attractive, easy-to-use features.

## REFRIGERATION

### FEATURES INCLUDE

- 4.3 cu.ft. Fridge - 3.7 cu.ft. Freezer.
- Reversible Doors - allow maximum flexibility in positioning.
- Frost-Free Freezer - no need to defrost.
- Glass Shelves - easy to clean and help retain the cold.
- 2 Salad Crispers - keep food fresher.
- Versatile Door Storage - gives maximum storage space.
- Versatile Freezer Storage - 2 baskets and 2 trays.



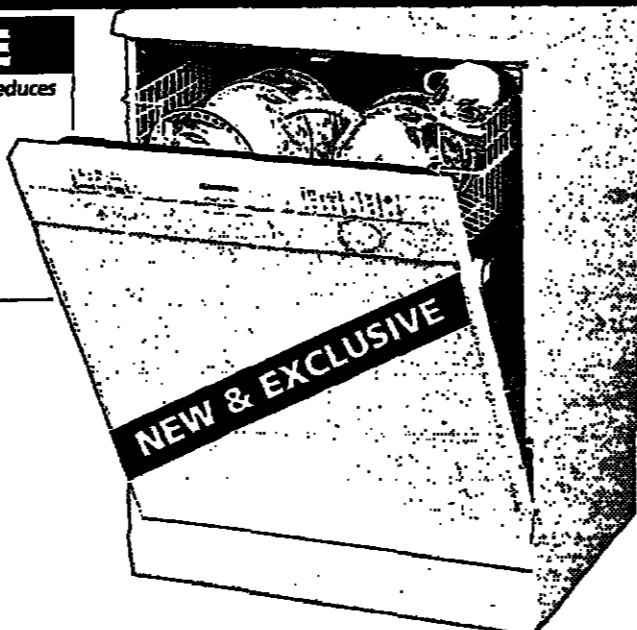
### ARISTON

**NEW & EXCLUSIVE**  
**8.0 cu.ft. 'Advantage' Frost-Free Fridge Freezer**  
Model AF80.  
Price Excluding Trade-In £419.99.  
**£40 TRADE-IN**  
**6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\***  
**TRADE-IN PRICE**  
**£379.99**

## DISHWASHERS

### FEATURES INCLUDE

- Takes 12 Place Settings.
- 5 Programmes and 3 Wash Temperatures - a choice of wash cycles for maximum flexibility.
- Intensive Wash Programme - a tough cycle for stubborn stains.
- Rapid Wash - a time saving programme.
- Half Load Facility - reduces energy and water consumption.
- Quiet Operation - designed to absorb sound and restrict noise levels.



### ARISTON

**Full Size 'Advantage' Dishwasher**  
Model AF200W.  
Price Excluding Trade-In £329.99.  
**£30 TRADE-IN**  
**6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\***  
**TRADE-IN PRICE**  
**£299.99**

**ARISTON** Full Size 'Select' Dishwasher 1200 Spin Settings. Model S1200. Price Excluding Trade-In £279.99. **£30 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£269.99** 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**ARISTON** Slimline 'Select' Dishwasher Takes 9 Place Settings. Model LS910. Price Excluding Trade-In £279.99. **£30 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£279.99** 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**ARISTON** Full Size 'Advantage' Dishwasher Takes 12 Place Settings. Model AF200W. Price Excluding Trade-In £379.99. **£30 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£349.99** 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**ARISTON** 4.8 cu.ft. 'Select' Fridge & 2 Salad Crispers. Reversible Door. Model S548. Price Excluding Trade-In £159.99. **£20 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£139.99**

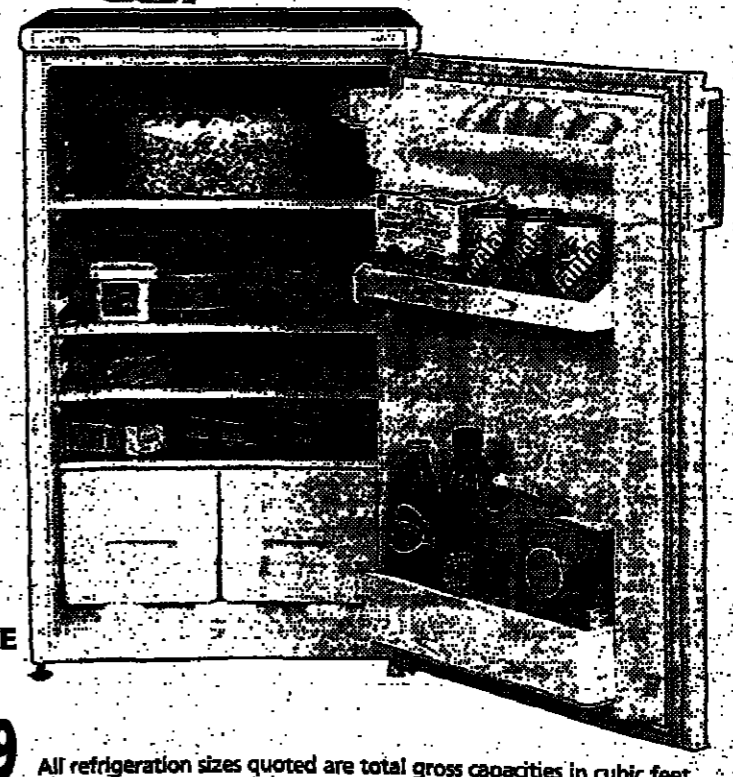
**ARISTON** 4.1 cu.ft. 'Select' Upright Freezer with Fast Freeze Facility. Reversible Door. Model S241. Price Excluding Trade-In £199.99. **£20 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£179.99**

**ARISTON** 6.1 cu.ft. 'Advantage' Larder Fridge 4 Shelves. Model AL81. Price Excluding Trade-In £229.99. **£30 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£199.99** 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**ARISTON** 10.8 cu.ft. 'Advantage' Fridge Freezer 6.4 cu.ft. Fridge. Model AF70. Price Excluding Trade-In £379.99. **£30 TRADE-IN PRICE** **£349.99** 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

### ARISTON

**NEW & EXCLUSIVE**  
**4.8 cu.ft. 'Select' Larder Fridge**  
Model SL48.  
Price Excluding Trade-In £169.99.  
**£20 TRADE-IN**  
**TRADE-IN PRICE**  
**£149.99**



All refrigeration sizes quoted are total gross capacities in cubic feet.



**THE CHOICE FOR YOU**

**NEXT DAY DELIVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
When you purchase before 4pm, 48 hour delivery in parts of Northern Ireland and remote parts of Scotland. You can even choose morning or afternoon delivery, or cake to home store. Ask in-store for details.

**BRITAIN'S BIGGEST RANGE**  
Including many exceptional value exclusive models and offers.

**PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION**  
Professional installation is available on all free-standing gas and electric cookers. Excludes N. Ireland and selected Scottish stores.

**PEACE OF MIND**  
Same day servicing available, just dial in-store. And ask about Mastercare Coverplan, providing up to 5 years free servicing.

**INSTANT CREDIT**  
Ask about Curry's Premier Advantage Card to make the choosing even easier.

**ORDER DIRECT FREEPHONE 0500 904304**  
Free doorstep delivery in 5 working days or fax 04462 88807 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, 10am-5pm Sun). Delivery charges from £2.25. Part of 1996 Retail Ltd.

**LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT**  
Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it.  
**WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN**  
ALL SUPPLIES OFFER EASY PARKING, LATE NIGHT SHOPPING AND SUNDAY OPENING. Ring 0500 904304 for details of your nearest store.

**EXAMPLE OF INTEREST FREE OPTION ON SELECTED PRODUCTS**  
**HOW IT WORKS** Account in interest free if repaid in full before 28th Dec 98, 9th, 10th or 12th monthly payments according to the period stated with the product. See our 'How it Works' signboard in-store for details. Example based on Cash Price of £299.99.  
**20% deposit of £59.99, 12 monthly payments of £13.33. Balance of £207.64 before 28th Dec 98, 9th, 10th or 12th monthly payments. Total amount payable £299.99. INTEREST FREE OPTION**  
**0% APR** SPREAD THE COST WITH 24 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS  
20% deposit of £59.99, 24 monthly repayments of £13.33, total amount payable £299.99.

Vord  
Elm-a  
for da  
  
Channel 4  
pays for  
Levin's  
interview  
  
informati

# Vorderman in £1m-a-year deal for daytime TV

By SUSIE STEINER

THE television presenter Carol Vorderman has signed a £5 million contract with Channel 4 to make her Britain's highest-paid daytime broadcaster.

The contract, announced yesterday, secures Vorderman as co-presenter of the quiz show *Countdown* for the next five years at a cost of nearly £4,000 per episode. Under its terms, she must attend eight weeks of filming a year and is free to present other shows for rival channels, including *Mysteries with Carol Vorderman*, *The National Lottery and Points of View* for the BBC and a new series, *Better Homes*, for ITV.

Vorderman's various projects, including a burgeoning range of spin-offs from magazines to mathematics text books, will bring the mother of two a yearly income of more than £2 million.

"I'm delighted to be signing a new contract with *Countdown*," she said last night. "I've been with the show since I was 21" — she is now 37 — "and to me it's not just a job, it's much, much more than that."

Her deal dwarfs the contracts of rival presenters such as Vanessa Feltz, who this summer signed a £1 million deal with the BBC for two prime-time series, a daily current affairs chatshow and a number of one-off specials.

Vorderman's agent, John Miles, said: "People like Cilla Black get enormous figures, but they have to rehearse and put in much more time. It's a nice contract because for the rest of the year she can go and do all the other shows for ITV and the BBC. I don't know any-



"I want the same as Carol Vorderman"

one else who is committed to a five-year contract."

Black, presenter of ITV's prime-time show *Blind Date*, is reported to earn £1.75 million a year, the highest-paid male is thought to be the former *Heartbeat* actor Nick Berry, who secured a two-year contract with the BBC in May for £3 million.

By contrast, Anna Ford, the BBC newsreader and presenter of *Today* on Radio 4, is said to earn £150,000 a year.

Vorderman, who has an IQ of 154 and a degree from Cambridge University, has been solving puzzles on *Countdown* for 16 years. Her jovial co-presenter, Richard Whitley, 54, has also signed a five-year deal with *Countdown* this week for an undisclosed sum.

The programme collects daytime television's highest ratings, consistently drawing four million viewers at least.

"We've got a wide spectrum of viewers: housewives, students, unemployed people, but also City people who record it and then watch it when they

get home," said its producer at Yorkshire Television, Michael Wylie.

Vorderman, 37, receives up to 500 letters a week from "young men, middle-aged men and old people", Mr Wylie said. Over the past three years, she has started to appear more on prime-time television and has extensive contracts with the BBC and ITV.

In the new year she moves away from science and into the realm of home improvement with two new series, *Dream House* for the BBC and *Better Homes* for ITV.

As well as her television work, Vorderman has lent her name to numerous corporate videos. She has her own monthly magazine called *Carol Vorderman's Challenge Puzzle*, at £1.20 an issue, and has produced a range of mathematics and science books as well as *Carol Vorderman's Guide to the Internet*.



Carol Vorderman: the highest-paid daytime TV presenter

# Fake Beanie Babies could be dangerous

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BEANIE BABIES, which are tipped to become one of the top four toys this Christmas, are already a firm favourite with counterfeiters and money launderers, according to police.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service is today issuing a warning that hundreds of thousands of fake cuddly toys are being targeted at the British market and they could be dangerous to children. Police in Britain and Holland have seized consignments of the fake toys worth up to £4 million.

Detectives say that the toys are made secretly in the Far East and then imported by gangs laundering cash from drug trafficking. The gangs export drug profits to buy and organise the importations, then sell the toys to distributors in markets and small shops.

Darren Couzens, who works with the Interpol department of NCIS on counterfeiting, said yesterday: "There is concern the materials used could be dangerous. The stuffing could be old, cracked beans and the stitching might rip so that children could swal-



The real thing: Beanie Babies cost up to £15

low. The price is usually not too low to put off buyers but it will still look like a bargain."

The gangs are not only selling copies of current Beanie Babies for the Christmas market. They are producing copies of previous limited editions that can be collected and are worth up to £200 each. These include the Princess Bear, the Britannia Bear, the Erin Bear and the Maple Bear. Mr Couzens said a number of the fake "collectibles" were known to have been sold in Britain.

He said lorryloads of the toys were being brought into the country and in one seizure in London last month 6,000 were found. In total, fake toys worth £1 million have been found in Britain and Dutch customs officers have seized another consignment worth up to £3 million.

Prosecution is usually only possible under Trademark Description or Copyright Acts. The American makers TY Toys said yesterday that it had been working with trading standards officers around the country. It was concerned that, in spite of the seizures, fakes were still being sold.

low the beans. We won't know about the problems until Boxing Day, after presents are opened."

Mr Couzens said parents buying the toys, which normally cost between £5 and £15, should always buy them at reputable outlets. He said that they should always check that the toys were properly packaged. Buyers should also see whether the toys have the certificates that they are supposed to carry.

He said: "This is a very efficient way to launder money. Some of the toys are very poor imitations but some are very

## Channel 4 pays for Lewinsky interview

By CAROL MIDDLEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MONICA LEWINSKY is to be paid £400,000 by Channel 4 to give her first television interview about her relationship with Bill Clinton.

The Channel 4 News presenter Jon Snow will conduct the one-hour interview and would not shy away from frank questions about the events of the past year, a spokesman said. The interview will take place in the US next month or in February and will be broadcast before Andrew Morton's book with Ms Lewinsky is published.

Channel 4 sources emphasised that the questions put to Miss Lewinsky would be "fair but tough". Mr Snow will be anxious to avoid criticisms that the *Panorama* reporter Martin Bashir faced when he interviewed Louise Woodward. He was accused of giving her an "easy ride" in return for signing the deal.

Channel 4 is being allowed to sell the rights to all countries outside North America. It is one of only two interviews the former White House intern will give — the other will be with Barbara Walters on an American television network and will be broadcast only in the US and Canada.

David Lloyd, head of news and current affairs at Channel 4, said: "This is a real coup for Channel 4."



Van Outen: takes revenge

## Van Outen rides into film career

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

DENISE VAN OUTEN, the *Big Breakfast* presenter, yesterday began shooting for her first film role — deep beneath the streets of London.

The actress, who leaves the Channel 4 show this month because she has tired of the early mornings, plays the lead in the first of ten stories based upon the true experiences of Tube passengers.

Her story tells of a woman's public revenge on another passenger. The director is Stephen Hopkins, who directed the summer blockbuster *Lost in Space*. Tom Bell and Liz Smith also appear. Van Outen, 24, said: "I feel honoured to be part of this team."

The actors Bob Hoskins and Ewan McGregor will get behind the camera to direct other stories for the film, called *Tube Tales*. It will be shown on Sky Premier in the spring.

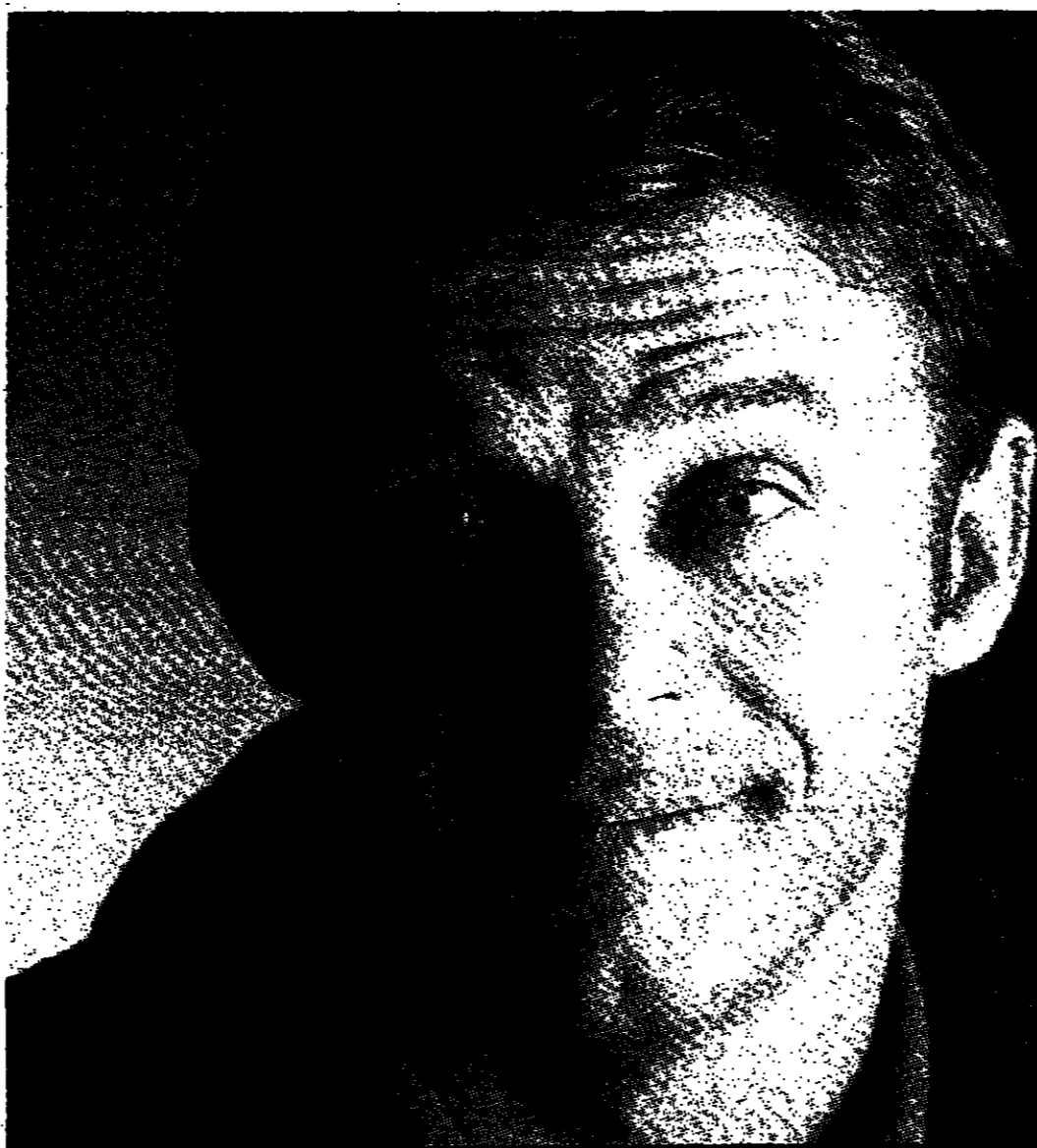
## informative:

With effect from 4 December 1998 the following interest rates will apply:

TESSA			
All credit balances interest paid annually	Previous Rate	New Rate	
	7.50% p.a. (Tax Free)	7.50% p.a. (Tax Free)	
High Interest Savings Account (with 10p p.a. bonus)			
	Previous Rate	New Rate	
Credit Interest % p.a. interest paid monthly	Gross	Gross	CAR
£1 to £499	4.00	4.55	3.60
£500 to £999	4.00	4.05	4.10
£1,000 to £2,499	4.50	4.05	4.10
£2,500 and over	5.00	4.51	4.50

Direct Interest Savings Account			
	Previous Rate	New Rate	
Credit Interest % p.a. interest paid quarterly	Gross	Gross	CAR
£1 to £2,499	0.50	0.50	0.50
£2,500 to £4,999	0.50	0.50	0.50
£5,000 to £9,999	0.50	0.50	0.50
£10,000 to £49,999	0.50	0.50	0.50
£50,000 and over	0.50	0.50	0.50

Tax free: the rate payable where the interest is exempt from the tax applicable to interest on savings.  
Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax applicable to interest on savings.  
CAR: Compounded Annual Rate is the true gross return if the interest payments are retained in the account.  
First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. Member FSCB Group.



The perfect present for every husband this Christmas.

Not having to move.

- Spend between £100 and £400 and qualify for the monthly payment plan\*
- 20% deposit on purchases between £125 and £400 then four equal monthly payments
- 25% deposit on purchases between £100 and £124 then three equal monthly payments

**Binatone Eurotel 1500**  
digital cordless phone

**£89.99**

**Samsung SPR 5100**  
digital cordless phone

**£99.99**

**BT Synergy 1000**  
digital cordless phone

**£129.99**  
SAVE £10 WAS £139.99

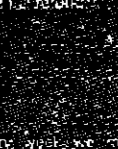
**BT Diverse 2015**  
digital cordless phone with answerphone

**£179.99**

Call in for prices you can trust  
For your nearest store call **Freemove 0800 400 004**

**The BT shop**  
communication experts

\*Only valid when using your credit card and paying by Direct Debit. \*\*The BT shop will accept as required that the product must be complete and boxed. For your further peace of mind all our products come with a 12 month guarantee. Your statutory rights are not affected. You must bring back your BT shop receipt within 14 days with details of the other retailer's price. The other retailer's price must be for a new product immediately available at full price at that store. This BT shop return policy applies to all products except telephone lines and associated services. All trademarks recognised.





# Sickly Britain lags behind in health league

High death rates and poor NHS staff levels leave us trailing Slovenia and Slovakia, reports Ian Murray

BRITAIN is only the 14th healthiest nation among the 35 countries of Europe, and has the fewest doctors per head of population apart from Albania and Turkey, according to new league tables.

Britain's low ranking is caused by relatively high rates of death from cancer and respiratory diseases and an above-average number of Aids cases. Italy, France, Greece, Slovakia and Slovenia have a better health profile.

The survey also shows that Britain has the fewest nurses and dentists per head in Western Europe. Finland has the highest proportion of nurses, with 2,130 trained for every 100,000 of the population compared with 450 for every 100,000 in Britain. Hospitals struggling to fill nursing vacancies have started to recruit in Helsinki.

The study was compiled by The Economist Intelligence Unit using 14 health indicators, including life expectancy, childhood and maternal mortality, immunisation coverage, Aids cases, death rates for cancer, infectious diseases and respiratory diseases, and tobacco consumption.

British deaths from chronic smoking-related diseases should start to decrease in ten to 15 years, however, because tobacco consumption is falling faster than in many other countries.

The tables suggest that money alone does not buy good health. Belgium, which spends more on health than the rest of the European Union, has among the worst infant mortality and male life expectancy. Germany and Iceland spend more per head than Britain, yet are lower down the table of healthiest nations. Spain and the Czech Re-

public spend less yet are higher in the league. Nordic countries are the healthiest because they have developed good community medicine and have a relatively small population, which makes it easier to manage public health programmes. Mediterranean countries also do well, probably because their diet discourages heart disease. Italy has improved its health profile thanks to a big improvement in immunisation rates.

The lowest places in the league are filled by countries that were formerly part of the Soviet Union. Russia is bottom, despite having more than twice as many doctors per head of population than Britain.

The Economist said that medical resources were wasted daily throughout Europe. "Italy is overpopulated with doctors. The ratio of hospital beds to population in The Netherlands is three times that of Ireland. The French consume more medicine per head than other Europeans. Yet the types of disease that are prevalent throughout Western Europe are the same."

The high cost of a sickly population is underlined by the report. It shows that, last year, 200 million working days were lost in Britain because of illness, costing £12 billion in lost production. The main reason for the lost days was chronic illness rather than accidents in the workplace, which means that the economy suffers from having an inadequately funded health service.

In a commentary with the tables, Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, said that cancer care in Britain was haphazard and inadequate; mental health services were in a deplorable state, especially in inner cities; and failure to provide enough money to recruit nurses was propelling the NHS into crisis.

The confederation represents health authorities and trusts. Mr Thornton said that health spending needed to increase 24 per cent in real terms simply because of the increasingly aged population.

Many economists believe that, inevitably, the health service will have to have alternative sources of financing in order to cope.



John Barr, who was about to register as partially blind, having his eyes tested after the operation. He can now read small print again

# Cure found for common eye disease

Man of 70 can see again as Liverpool surgeons succeed in a breakthrough treatment, writes Russell Jenkins

EYE surgeons announced a breakthrough yesterday after curing a man with the most common form of blindness in the Western world.

More than two million people in Britain suffer from macular degeneration, an age-related disease that attacks the retina, leaving the sufferer with only peripheral vision. A team at St Paul's Eye Unit in Liverpool restored the sight of a 70-year-old retired dentist in a two-hour operation. The technique, developed by David Wong, an ophthalmic surgeon, and his team, could be used to prevent blindness in many of the 16,000, largely elderly, people in Britain who fall prey to the disease each year.

The operation has been performed in experimental form in the United States and Germany, but the development being perfected at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital

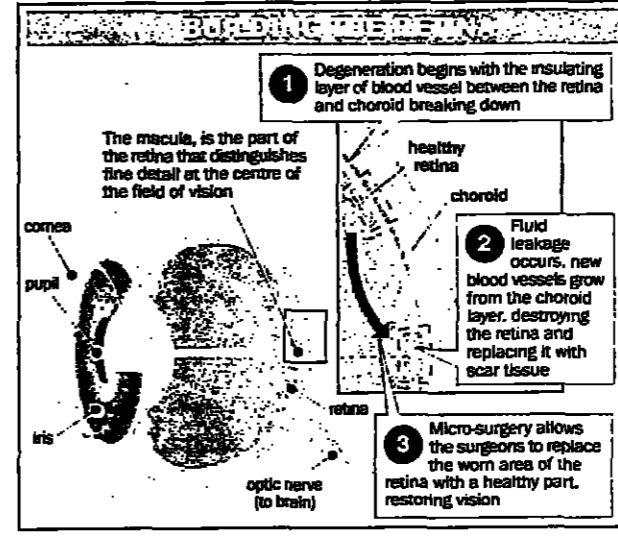
simplifies a complex procedure, allowing the surgery to be performed routinely.

Mr Wong, 45, uses healthy retinal tissue to replace the worn diseased tissue obscuring the sufferer's central vision. Effectively, he creates a patch or tuck in the outer "nourishing" layer of the retina, shifting the diseased material to a less important area of the eye.

The surgeon said: "Put simply, it is like moving around a carpet that has a worn patch in it and tucking the worn part away."

The team has so far carried out seven operations on volunteers in the past three months. Three were deemed failures and they are still awaiting the results on another three.

The operation on John Barr, a grandfather of two, has been declared highly successful. Mr Barr, from Pickering, North Yorkshire, recalled



may improve enough for me to drive again."

Mr Wong, who lives on the Wirral with his wife, Susan, a district nurse, and his 12-year-old twin daughters, said the operation offered hope to sufferers for whom the only treatment had been laser therapy, which, at best, only limited further damage. At the moment the surgery would help only those who had recently suffered a catastrophic loss of vision — about 5 to 10 per cent of the 16,000 sufferers each year.

Mr Wong said that there was a two-month window of opportunity in which to operate. However, the team, on the verge of a three-year trial, believes that that period may widen once the surgery becomes established.

Mr Wong said: "I believe this is the single most important surgical development for many years. We are very excited and encouraged."

"We have demonstrated that there is spare capacity for vision in the eye. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for a surgeon, where you take little steps and then suddenly make a giant leap."

The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

Not wishing to stand on ceremony that same is Toshiba. We've just swept the board at the prestigious USA computer magazine awards at TOWIN Comdex and now have 4 more medals to pin to our computer chests. We've won the "PC Magazine 1998 Technical Excellence Award" for the Tecra 8000 series.

which was deemed by the judges to have "effectively redefined high-end notebook computing." Our Portégé 3010CT has won the "PC Computing 1998 Most Valuable Product, of the Year" and the "PC Computing 1998 Most Valuable Product - Lightweight Travelling Companion" category. And we've also won one of the

most prestigious awards of all. We've won the 'Best Desktop and Mobile System at Comdex' award for the Portégé 3010CT, a PC that challenges and redefines the limits of portable design providing ultra portability with performance. If you'd like to judge the world market leader in portable computing for yourself, call your nearest Toshiba Authorised

Reseller, or Toshiba on 01932 828 828 or visit our website at [www.toshiba.co.uk/computers](http://www.toshiba.co.uk/computers)



PC Division, Toshiba Information Systems (UK), Ltd., Toshiba Court, Westbridge Business Park, Addlestone Road, Westbridge, Surrey KT15 2JL.

urged to envoy in up claim

THAN OF SEAT OF ARTINA.

they tried to hammer a stake... assaulted by Mr Rusn.

# Blunkett offers trade-off for teachers

Salaries could reach £40,000 if annual appraisals are accepted to lift standards, reports John O'Leary

TEACHERS will be offered a double bonus worth more than £2,000 a year, based partly on pupils' results, under government proposals to ease recruitment problems and help to raise standards in schools.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, yesterday announced a £1 billion package that will remove a pay ceiling that restricts more than half of the teaching profession to less than £23,000 a year. A new scale will allow some to earn £35,000 without taking on administrative responsibilities.

To qualify, however, teachers will have to pass a rigorous annual appraisal and agree to work outside normal hours. An assessment to be validated by independent experts will take pupils' progress into account, creating a link between pay and children's results for the first time in this century.

Teachers in schools that reach the Government's performance targets will also be eligible for one-off bonuses from a £50 million awards fund. Heads of large secondary schools will have up to £25,000 to distribute among staff. Heads' salaries could reach £70,000. In a Green Paper entitled *Meeting the challenge of change*, Mr Blunkett said he expected a majority of teachers to reach the new pay scale within a few years. But some would choose not to take on "higher professional expectations", which may be enshrined in new contracts.

For talented young teachers singled out to join a fast-track promotion scheme, the higher expectations would mean working an extra four to six weeks a year. They would be expected to be more mobile than other teachers, transferring to failing schools when necessary. The fast-track scheme is intended to double the number of "super-teachers" who can earn up to £40,000 a year. The first have been appointed in education action zones, and the total is expected to be 10,000.

An army of classroom assistants, including students help-



De Gruchy: agreement difficult but not impossible

ing to pay off their tuition fees, will provide new support for teachers.

Mr Blunkett said the package was "about modernising the whole of the profession, not just about teachers' pay". He told MPs: "This is about something for something: for the first time in years, a commitment to invest in and reward teachers in return for a new professionalism is on offer."

The proposals received a cautious welcome from the teaching unions, which are opposed to payment by results but anxious not to spurn an opportunity to restructure the pay system. Most are waiting to see the detail of the proposals in a technical paper in the new year before giving approval.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, described the proposals as a revolution. "The difficulties should not be underestimated, particularly if the new pay system is perceived to be too crude. But it deserves very serious consideration."

The National Union of Teachers, which has threatened industrial action if faced with payment by results, was also moderate in its response. Doug McAvey, the general secretary, said: "The opportunity for full and detailed consultation with Government is welcome and the union will make a positive contribution."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Asso-

ciation of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said it would be "difficult but not impossible" to agree the details of the scheme.

David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, said that the annual appraisal process might have to be so regimented that consultants employed as validators would earn almost as much from the scheme as the teachers. "We want to see practical and flexible measures to recruit, retain and reward good teachers. Instead, the Secretary of State has produced a vague scheme based above all on his belief that the man in Whitehall knows best."

However, Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, said the package, taken with other investment in schools, would transform the job of teaching within three years.

Teachers will be given more opportunities for professional development. All trainee teachers will be given new tests in numeracy, literacy and information and communications technology.

The proposals will be put out to consultation until Easter with implementation scheduled for September 2000.

Education, pages 45, 47



Estelle Morris at Chiswick Community School, where the pay proposals were launched. She said they would transform teaching within three years

## Staff not sure about performance-related pay

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

STAFF at the school where Tony Blair launched the Green Paper yesterday admitted they were worried about the impact payment-by-results could have on their school.

Chiswick Community School in Hounslow, West London, performs well at GCSE in spite of having a high proportion of pupils from deprived backgrounds. This year the number of pupils achieving at least one pass at GCSE rose from 92 to 99 per cent. But the number achieving five A-C grades

dropped 3 percentage points to 48 per cent.

Helen Metcalf, headteacher for ten years, said she was in favour of being able to give her best teachers a bonus. She already has to promote her most promising staff and said performance-related pay would not cause staffroom friction. "We already do it and it doesn't cause problems. It is the way it works if you are a good teacher," she said.

But Mrs Metcalf has her reservations. For her the big question is the basis on which mor-

ey will be allocated to her school. "This year we have four refugees from Ethiopia in the GCSE year. They cannot speak English and there is no way they will take GCSEs next summer. But they will be counted in league tables as 15-year-olds who failed to achieve," she said.

"It will affect our targets and it would be terrible if it affected the money we received. We are trying to follow the Government's policy of inclusion. But sometimes inclusion and standards do not tally."

Mrs Metcalf is still positive. "At least they are going to engage in a professional dialogue to get things done. This is at least a move in the right direction."

Her deputy is less optimistic. David Brockie, 38, said



Goldsmith, left, and Brockie: not sure about bonuses



not add to that, but you still deserve the rewards for hard work," he said. "Unless there are clear criteria for picking out who deserves bonuses, it is potentially very damaging."

Bill Goldsmith, assistant head of sixth form, is one of the youngest staff. At 25, Chiswick Community College is his first teaching job. Although he agrees there should be a review of teachers' pay he is unsure whether bonuses would have encouraged more of his university peers to enter the profession.

"Many of my friends were going into law and the City. The money those careers offer is not comparable with any plans the Government may be making. I entered teaching as a vocation and a different pay structure would not have tempted me more," Mr Goldsmith said.

good teachers were already rewarded. He thought performance-related pay could cause rifts between colleagues. "It is very difficult to make performance-related pay work in a way that people can see is fair. The involvement of individual teachers in a child's progress is hard to pin-

point," Mr Brockie said. He was concerned about what happens to a school already achieving its full potential. "You get to a stage where teachers, pupils and parents are working very hard. Results are the best they could be for those kids and you have reached a finite level. You can-

LOOKING FOR UNBEATABLE VALUE THIS WEEKEND?

## COMET BEST BUYS



**Goodmans CD MICRO HI-FI**  
"A good proposition...for kitchen or bedroom use."  
● Digital FM/AM radio ● Full logic control  
● 20 station pre-sets  
Model MS388, was £89.99 previously £99.99  
SAVE £15  
**£84.99**  
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET



**aiwa CD MICRO HI-FI**  
Fantastic sound from a tiny system  
● 2 x 10 watts RMS power output  
● Full logic control ● Bass boost  
● Digital FM/MW/LW radio  
Model LX350, was £149.99  
SAVE £10  
**£139.99**



**aiwa CD STEREO RADIO CASSETTE**  
● FM/MW/LW radio  
● Mains or battery operated  
● Tone control  
Model CSD-55255 was £79.99  
SAVE £10  
**£69.99**



**WHAT HI-FI?**  
**Goodmans GREEN CD MICRO HI-FI**  
"Very fine performance"  
● 2 x 20 watts RMS power output  
● Full logic control  
● Digital FM/MW/LW radio  
Model XPM35  
SAVE £10  
**£49.99**



**aiwa CD MICRO HI-FI**  
"A very fine performance"  
● 2 x 20 watts RMS power output  
● Full logic control  
● Digital FM/MW/LW radio  
Model XPM35  
**£199.99**



**WE PROMISE THE LOWEST PRICES**  
The Comet Price Promise guarantees that if you buy any product from Comet, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll happily refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

For local store details see Telephone Card p.25 or phone Free hot 0500 422 422

# Get SkyDigital and be installed free for Christmas

Subscribe to SkyDigital today from as little as £6.99 per month, plus a one-off connection fee of £30, and get FREE standard digital installation worth £99.99!

SkyDigital has the widest choice of quality channels including:

- 5 sports channels
- 10 documentary channels
- Up to 5 movies every hour, that's up to 25 movies a night
- 44 audio music channels to suit every taste

You'll need a digital satellite system to watch SkyDigital which you can buy for just £199.99, when you agree to have your phone line connected to your Digibox for twelve months.† This will allow you to access future interactive services such as e-mail, home shopping and banking.

### Don't wait...

- Call now so you can be watching SkyDigital this Christmas
- You can watch SkyDigital on your existing television
- Only SkyDigital covers the whole of the UK, providing crystal clear pictures and digital quality sound

Call NOW to subscribe to SkyDigital or for a FREE video information pack

**08702 42 42 42**

quoting ME34 or visit your SkyDigital retailer



www.skydigital.co.uk

† The special price quoted for the digital satellite system (excluding installation) is subject to signing the Interactive Discount Contract with BT (Marketing Communications Ltd) and having the Digibox connected to a fixed and operational telephone line for 12 months minimum. If you or other terms of the Interactive Discount Contract are broken you will be liable to pay £100 to BT. You do not need to subscribe to SkyDigital to purchase a digital satellite system at this price. † Minimum subscription to SkyDigital is 12 months. Sky Box office hours and evenings are not included within the subscription and must be paid for separately. Different rates and terms apply to pubs, clubs and other non domestic customers. Sky In-Home Services charge for standard installation is £39.99. If your installation is otherwise not standard because it requires additional cabling, bracketry or works, you will be charged for the equipment or work. † Installation times subject to demand and availability.

THE COMET PRICE: The stores in South Wales do not show savings in store. All items subject to availability. Prices and information correct at time of going to press (3.12.98).



# Dome scuppers 'working man's yacht club'

THE sun is setting on "the people's yacht club" as its weekend sailors complain that the organisers of the Millennium Dome want them evicted as an eyesore.

The modest craft with their peeling hulls and worn sails moored at Greenwich are a far cry from the floating gin palaces that decorate so much of the Thames.

Some look as if they could not reach the other side of the river, but their owners argue they should not be sacrificed for the Dome. Members of the Thames Barrier Yacht Club say that Labour wants to sanitise the riverfront around the exhibition centre.

One club member said: "If we had 700 gleaming white schooners we would get a lottery grant to turn us into a tourist attraction, but as we are amateurs with not much money the Dome people want rid of us. We haven't got fancy

**Slice of river life is threatened by the 'sanitisation' of Greenwich,**  
reports Daniel McGrory

headquarters that tourists will want to photograph, but we are the last affordable sailing club for real Londoners."

Visitors to the club, which is in the shadow of the millennium big top, must concede that the Thames Barrier Yacht Club is anything but an example of beauty. Decaying boats groan against an old Rhine barge that is berthed as protection for the 50 or so craft moored there.

The clubhouse is a draughty

prefab that can be reached only across muddy waste ground that will soon become the Greenwich Millennium Village.

Ken Hilbrow, the self-styled club commodore, used to be an assembly line worker at Ford. He admits the rotting jetty that was once used to load steel on to Thames barges is not the most enviable of moorings. "We have got by through our own resources and now we will have nowhere to go. No club will want to take any of these boats even if the owners could afford the fees."

Membership to the club, which is about eight years old, is £15 a year, plus £5 a week for mooring.

What irritates members is that Tony Blair has said he wants the Dome site to reflect the "riverbank experience". But the organisers do not want a new riverbank walk to pass the club. The government



Ken Hilbrow, "commodore" of the Thames Barrier Yacht Club, said to be a last refuge for the working-class sailor

building agency, English Partnerships, says that the club members are squatters.

English Partnerships has compulsorily purchased the land used to reach the yacht club's rotting jetty — which has been condemned by Greenwich council. The area was previously owned by British Gas which did not realise

the club was there. A spokesman for the agency said: "The trouble is that the club asked the Port of London Authority for a licence to moor the boats. All the PLA in those days was concerned about was whether it would cause an obstruction in the river."

"They didn't trouble themselves with asking whether the

club owned the land that adjoins the jetty."

English Partnerships says that it is finding new moorings for the Greenwich Meridian Yacht Club, which also has to move, and members of the Thames Barrier club are being invited to berth there.

The spokesman said: "The Greenwich club is not much

more upmarket so we cannot be accused of trying to squeeze out the working-class sailors."

English Partnerships said it was also seeing whether the redevelopment work could include "a small pontoon" for the sailors. But Mr Hilbrow is anxious there is room for all his members — and a piece of river life is preserved.

# GP charged with killing two more patients

By Russell Jenkins

A FAMILY doctor in Greater Manchester, who is facing six murder charges, appeared in Tameside Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with murdering two more women patients. Harold Shipman, 52, who runs a one-man practice in Hyde, was charged with the murders of Jean Lilley, 59, in Hyde on April 25, 1997, and Irene Turner, 67, on July 11, 1996.

He did not speak in court, but he smiled and nodded to his wife, Primrose, who was sitting in the public gallery. Dr Shipman was remanded in custody until Monday, when he will appear before the same court for committal proceedings to take place on three further murder charges.

He is also due to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday for "plea and directions". It is expected that a judge will set a provisional date for his trial on the original charge of murdering Kathleen Grundy, 81, a former mayoress of Hyde and one of his patients, who died in June.

# Duke to defence of dying corals

By Nick Nuttall  
Environment Correspondent

THE Duke of Edinburgh yesterday spoke of his concern at the impact of global warming on the world's coral reefs.

Studies have shown that corals have been seriously damaged by increases in sea temperatures: up to 90 per cent have been killed this year in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The Duke, speaking at a review in London of the impact of the UN's International Year of the Oceans 1998, said the world's seas were being damaged by overfishing, pollution and unbalanced development in coastal areas.

"These threats are all well established. But the response has been depressingly inadequate. On top of that now we have global warming and the change in sea temperatures."

The Duke, president emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature, said corals, which are vital nurseries for fish, sea defences for vulnerable, low-lying islands and important sources of tourist income, had been suffering at the hands of man for over a decade. But global warming was "having an even greater effect... it is very worrying."

The review, involving UN officials and delegates from several countries, stated that, despite some successes, the year of the oceans had failed to turn the tide. Claude Martin, director-general of the fund, said it was vital that action was taken at the UN Commission of Sustainable Development's annual meeting in April. Preparatory talks began in London next week.

There had been some success, according to the review, the World Trade Organisation had, for the first time, recognised the damage caused by what the Duke described as the "perverse" subsidies leading to massive overcapacity of the world's fishing fleets.

Leading article, page 25

# Ancient ancestor took his medicine

By Ian Murray  
Medical Correspondent

A EUROPEAN man who lived 5,300 years ago was taking natural medicines for stomach ache and arthritis, scientists have found.

The Ice Man of the South Tyrol was found in 1991, and since then scientists have been studying his well-preserved remains to find out about his lifestyle. They have now discovered why he was carrying two woody fruits of a fungus called *piptoporus betulinus*, tied together with a leather thong.

Luigi Capasso, of the Department of Anthropology at the National Archaeological Museum in Chieti, Italy, writes in *The Lancet* today that eggs of a worm found in the man's rectum would have caused severe stomach ache and anaemia, which would explain why he had a low iron content in his muscles.

The discovery of the fungus suggests that the Ice Man was very aware of his intestinal parasites and was trying to fight them with measured doses of toxic resins and agaric acid, an active compound which is a powerful laxative. The fungus also contains oils that are toxic to worms and have antibiotic properties.

Professor Capasso says that the toxic oils in the fungus were probably the only treatment available in Europe before the introduction of more powerful remedies from the Americas. Even these American oils needed to be used in conjunction with a strong laxative to expel dead and dying worms and their eggs.

The Ice Man also appears to have had arthritis at the base of the spine, the knee and the ankle and to have tried another cure. The skin above these areas is covered in intersecting cuts which were filled with herbs and then ignited, cauterising the wounds. Professor Capasso says that this suggests a form of localised therapy for muscle and joint pain.

# Riddle of teapot dribble is solved

By Nick Nuttall

PEOPLE who blame bad design for teapots that dribble are wrong, says a Belgian scientist. Jean Marc Vanden-Broeck, who has researched why tea dribbles down the underside of the spout, claims that it is a natural phenomenon with no known cure.

Professor Vanden-Broeck, who specialises in calculating fluid flows, reached his conclusion after spending a month studying "the teapot effect".

He said: "Tea, or any other fluid, dribbles down any design or shape of pot or pouring apparatus."

"I have discovered that the pressure in the fluid underneath the spout is very low. The fluid therefore gets pushed on to the spout by natural atmospheric pressure."

Professor Vanden-Broeck, 47, of the University of East Anglia, said that he had worked out a formula, contained in two pages of compu-



Spouting nonsense: Disney's Mad Hatter

ter data, that could predict where and in what shape the teapot dribble would come.

He said that he believed it was possible to design the perfect teapot, but added that he was not yet near to calculating the correct proportions.

Last week scientists from Bristol University discovered the perfect way to dunk biscuits without them becoming soggy and falling into the cup.

# Buy him something you can share this Christmas.

## A good laugh.

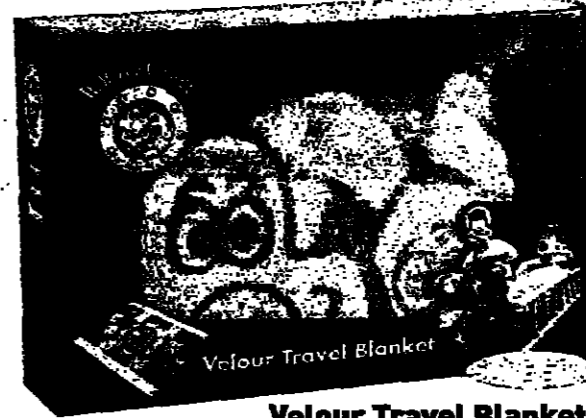


Rear £12.99 £9.69 each.

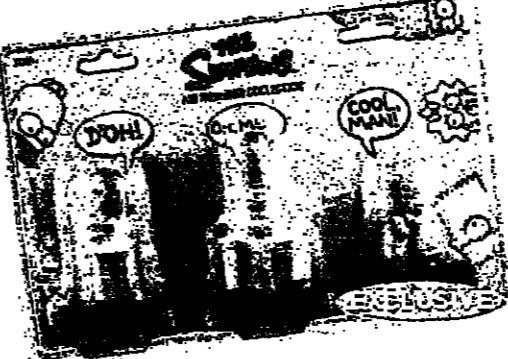
Car Mats.

SAVE 25%

Front £14.99 £11.24 each.



Velour Travel Blanket. £24.99 £18.69



Air Freshener Gift Set. £9.99



Air Freshener Gift Set. £9.99



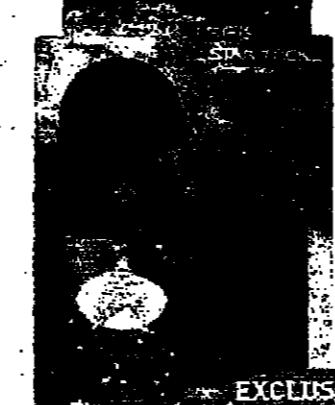
Wash Mitts, Demisters and Ice Scrapers. from £3.99



Air Freshener. £3.99



Wash Mitts, Demisters and Ice Scrapers. from £3.99



Star Trek Captains Log Gift Set. £12.99



Nodding Bulldog. £3.99



Learner Driver's Kit. £4.99



Back Seat Driver's Kit. £2.99

**HALFORDS WE GO THE EXTRA MILE.**

CALL 0345 624 625 FOR YOUR NEAREST SUPERSTORE. SUPERSTORES OPEN 9AM-8PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM-6PM WEEKENDS. CHECK HIGH STREET STORE TIMES LOCALLY. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. PRICES SHOWN ARE FOR THE PERIOD 3.11.98-24.12.98. 20% DEPOSIT. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. 27.9% APR VARIABLE. SUBJECT TO STATUS. NOT AVAILABLE TO ANYONE UNDER 18. OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. HALFORDS LIMITED, ICKNIELD STREET DRIVE, WASHFORD WEST, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B96 0DE.

# Cranborne's secret caught Hague cold

WEDNESDAY morning was much like any other for William Hague. The Tory leader's mind was on nothing but his weekly clash with Tony Blair in the Commons that afternoon.

For several hours after breakfast, he was closeted in his rooms with David Heathcoat-Amory, his Shadow Chief Secretary, preparing fresh lines of attack on the Government over Euro-taxes.

But at about 1pm the balloon went up. Completely out of the blue, he learned that Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, was about to bounce him into a deal on reforming the Upper House.

Although Mr Hague knew Lord Cranborne was holding talks with the Government, he was not aware how far these had gone and he certainly was not expecting a fait accompli. Mr Hague was furious. Within minutes his staff discovered that Lord Cranborne was at that moment holding an emergency meeting of his front bench in the Lords. He had also organised a meeting of the Association of Conservative Peers at 3.30pm.

They also caught wind of a press conference to be held by Lord Weatherill, the former Commons speaker and current convener of the cross-benchers, at which the deal would be announced. One of Mr Hague's aides even rang *The Times* to see what else was

## James Landale and Phil Webster plot the course of clash that pitted Tory peers against their own MPs

planned. Mr Hague and his advisers decided to confront the issue head on. The Tory leader would use his six questions in the Commons that afternoon to throw out the deal. Such was the rush that Mr Heathcoat-Amory was not informed and when he sat down at the Commons front bench at 3.30pm, he was expecting Mr Hague to lead off on tax. The tactic was clear: while Mr Hague stood firm on a matter of principle, Tony Blair would be shown up as a man who had reneged on his deal to throw out all hereditary peers. And if Lord Cranborne had to be sacked in the process, well, that would show Mr Hague to be a strong leader

who was prepared to take difficult decisions. But by yesterday, Mr Hague faced criticism for his leadership, mass resignation threats from Tory frontbenchers, and the worst newspaper headlines in his time as leader. November 19: Mr Hague's problems began when a select and ad hoc group of senior Shadow Cabinet figures met in the evening in his Commons room. Those present included Mr Hague, Lord Cranborne, Peter Lilley, Michael Ancram, Liam Fox, Sir George Young, James Arbuthnot, Lord Strathclyde, Sir Norman Fowler and Francis Maude. Michael Howard was away in China but was kept in-

formed of events. The latest proposals were discussed. These effectively would have saved some 90 hereditary peers after the bulk of hereditaries had gone.

Lord Cranborne was left in no doubt that this deal was unacceptable. "The Shadow Cabinet group which met some weeks ago made it clear that this was not a way in which we were prepared to go," Mr Ancram said yesterday.

But the meeting did not forbid Lord Cranborne from speaking to the Government and the cross-benchers. The committee formally instructed him to go away, continue the talks and see if a better deal was possible. Specifically, if the Tories accepted the first-stage expulsion of the hereditaries, would the Government in return agree to delay the Bill's implementation until further, second-stage reforms were ready? What Mr Hague did not know is that Lord Cranborne actually began to go further than instructed and secretly agree the deal behind his back. He thought that if the deal had the backing of the Government, the cross-benchers, and — crucially — Tory frontbench and backbench peers, Mr Hague would be forced to accept the proposal. November 27: Over the week of the Queen's Speech, Lord Cranborne held several meetings with senior ministers in



Viscount and Viscountess Cranborne with some of their spaniels and a Labrador: the Cecil family dote on dogs

### PRaise for Tory leader in Lords

LORD Strathclyde, the new leader of Tory peers, said yesterday that Viscount Cranborne's dismissal was a matter of "great personal regret" and spoke of wishing to follow his "very clear example". Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Lords Leader, said to shouts of "hear, hear" that his role

could not be undervalued: "I think we were all saddened by the circumstances in which these changes did occur and I would like to pay a very warm tribute." Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, the Liberal Democrat leader, said Lord Cranborne's departure was "a loss to this House".

the Lords and Commons. The most important were with Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Carter, the Chief Whip, and Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Leader of the Lords. By the end of the week, enough of a deal was in place for Lord Cranborne to discuss it with Mr Blair. He warned him that the Shadow Cabinet might not accept the deal but insisted that it was worth trying to win it over.

December 2: Lord Cranborne's high-risk plan was ready. He would secure the backing of his front bench at a lunchtime meeting. At 3.15pm, Lord Weatherill would unveil the proposals at a press conference. At 3.30pm, Lord Cranborne would put the suggestions to his backbenchers. Accounts differ as to what was said. Most peers said they gave Lord Cranborne their backing and they insist he told

them that the deal had no strings attached. "What the Commons don't understand is that it would be perfectly normal for us to accept the deal but still chase the Government over the Bill and put down as many amendments as we wanted," one Tory peer said. But Mr Hague was convinced that Lord Cranborne had agreed to "neuter the Tory party" and call off his hereditary dogs from harrying all

government legislation, not just the Lords reform Bill. Within a few hours, Lord Cranborne had been sacked. While Tory peers were plunged into despondency, Tory MPs were jubilant. "William hit them where it hurts," one MP said. "Cranborne was running the Lords like his personal hof and had to be brought to heel or go." *Leading article, page 25*

# Dixons

Most stores open Sunday

## WIDESCREEN TV AND SKYDIGITAL PACKAGES

### SAVE UP TO £200\*

HURRY! OFFER MUST END SUNDAY

### SONY KV28WS2 28" WIDESCREEN DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Super Trinitron Widescreen.
- IQ Picture Optimisation.
- Fastext.
- NTSC input.

TV ONLY £799.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £999.98

### skydigital DIGITAL SATELLITE RECEIVER

PACE BSKYB 2200

- Runs SkyGuide — the on-screen TV planner.
- Digital quality sound.

£199.99\*

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £899\*

SAVE £100

### skydigital SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

Free standard installation when you subscribe to SkyDigital for 12 months.

£6.99

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### skydigital SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

Free standard installation when you subscribe to SkyDigital for 12 months.

£939\*

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £1199\*

SAVE £100

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £1599\*

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £799\*

SAVE £100

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £679\*

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £599\*

SAVE £100

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £479\*

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.
- Wide Reception 100% picture.
- Fastext. Includes cabinet stand.

TV ONLY £1099.99  
Package Total Separate Selling Price £1299.98

### PACKAGE PRICE

Widescreen TV and SkyDigital Package

## £499.99

SAVE £200

### SONY KV28F760 28" WIDESCREEN NICAM STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen size.</

# Hague toughs it out, but will voters prove a soft touch?

William Hague is secure as Conservative leader, at least this side of the general election. He retains the strong support of his Shadow Cabinet and of his backbench MPs — and there is no serious alternative in the Commons.

Nevertheless, the fracas over his sacking of Viscount Cranborne has given the impression of confusion and division rather than the firmness and decisiveness that Mr Hague has sought to convey.

Even if Mr Hague may have had no choice but to sack Lord Cranborne for exceeding his authority, the Tory leader misread

the mood of Conservative peers. The Lords traditionally adopts a consensual, give-and-take approach, by contrast with the more partisan character of many Tory MPs. Last month, the Tory leadership in the Lords wanted to halt the opposition to the European Elections Bill after the fourth rejection by peers rather than block the Bill as Mr Hague insisted. Many Tory peers have looked for a compromise over the future of the Upper House.

Mr Hague and his senior colleagues, such as Peter Lilley, Michael Howard and John Redwood, have favoured a strong

even at times almost gung-ho, style of opposition — bashing the Government at every opportunity. Mr Hague likes to portray himself as a man of principle, whether opposing British entry into the single currency, rejecting a closed-list system in the European election, or insisting on a comprehensive package for Lords reform rather than a staged approach. It is as if he wants, at all times, to contrast himself with the alleged wavering and tacking of John Major, his predecessor.

This "I am the leader willing to take tough decisions" style goes down well with many Tory MPs,

particularly since Mr Hague is a combative and funny performer in the Commons. After the electoral disaster of May 1997, the troops needed to be rallied. Mr Hague's



advisers argue that solidifying your core support is a necessary pre-condition for electoral recovery. The regular MORI polls for *The Times* show that satisfaction with

Mr Hague's performance has recently started recovering from its previously very low levels among Tory supporters. Nonetheless, even among this hard core, his rating is still negative, compared with the huge positive ratings of Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown. The big uncertainty is whether this sharp-edged style will win over former Tory supporters. Mr Hague's rating with the public generally remains weak, while the Tories remain at very low levels in the polls for this stage of the parliament.

However, last week's Scottish European by-election and recent lo-

cal elections suggest that Tory fortunes have started to pick up. The Tories should have a cyclical swing in their favour next year. The seats being fought in next May's local elections are ones last contested at the party's low point in 1995, so the Tories should make sizeable gains.

The party should also benefit from the use of proportional representation in the Scottish and Welsh elections and possibly also in the European elections (depending what happens to the current Bill). Such gains may create false expectations. Labour's mo-

ral and hopes rose in 1985-86, and again in 1989-90, only to be dashed at the subsequent general elections. But, in the short term, such a revival should underpin Mr Hague's position as leader.

His long-term future depends on how the Tories do at the next general election — and whether a challenger to his leadership, such as Michael Portillo, returns to the Commons. Meanwhile, the main question is whether Mr Hague's uncompromising style of leadership improves his party's electoral chances, or prevents the Tories reaching out beyond their traditional redoubt.

## Clash shows MPs and peers have little in Commons

THE spectacular political wreckage bobbing about in William Hague's wake is the result of a collision of two traditions. The difference in culture between the Lords and the Commons has rarely been more in evidence than in the events of the last two days.

Mr Hague may well be reflecting that, to paraphrase Hartley, "the Lords is a different place, they do things differently there". He may also consider that part of the problem has been his apparent failure to understand the nature of the beasts who stalk the corridors of the upper chamber in the name of his own party.

He is not alone. Few MPs pretend to understand the Lords, and those that claim to are probably deluded. Peers operate, negotiate and deal in an entirely different way from MPs. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the conduct of Viscount Cranborne.

It became increasingly clear yesterday that the former Tory leader in the Lords had approached his talks with Tony Blair from a standpoint utterly alien to elected members. Not only was he piecing together a deal without reporting the details back to his leader, he was,

**The Tory leader should have taken trouble to understand the Lords, reports Roland Watson**

as he has since confessed, putting the future of the Lords ahead of the interests of his party.

Although his sacking took most of Westminster by surprise, Lord Cranborne was himself clearly ahead of the game. He astonished Labour negotiators by telling them that even if he ended up being fired, he would still be able to deliver enough Tory peers to support the success of the deal.

This was a man who, despite his deliberately casual exterior, knew exactly what he was doing. And Mr Hague did not. The result was that at 3pm on Wednesday, when Mr Blair and Mr Hague squared up to each other at Prime Minister's Questions, the Prime Minister knew far more about

what was going on among Tory peers than the leader of the Conservative Party.

Tory MPs have been quick to accuse Lord Cranborne of conduct unbecoming of the heir to the 6th Marquess of Salisbury. But it is precisely in his lineage that the seeds of the debacle lie.

Mr Hague had sent someone in to bat for the Tories who had nothing politically to lose. Lord Cranborne dealt with Downing Street on the grounds that he was a gentleman, that he did not have to put his name to anything on paper for them to trust him, that his own future was less important than the issues on the table, and that they could take his word. They did.

This state of affairs has meant that in the past 48 hours, Mr Hague has had one of the arguments he uses to support the plight of the hereditary peers turned spectacularly against him. While insisting that he has every right as Tory leader to demand the utmost loyalty from his peers, he has been shown that the one reason why peers can be so awkward is that they are beholden to no one, not even their party leader.



Lord Fraser, above right, with Lord Onslow yesterday, and from top, Lords Bowness, Cope, Home and Pilkington

## Honour-bound to fall on sword

BY JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IF ANY member of the Tory front bench in the Lords was going to resign over the Cranborne affair, it was Lord Fraser of Carmyllie.

As Lord Cranborne's deputy, the 53-year-old life peer had been a keen supporter of his leader's strategy and was deeply implicated in its construction. At the same time, the portly son of a Church of Scotland minister is one of the more straightforward and decent men in British politics. If

he felt honour-bound to fall on his sword, he would do so without hesitation.

The resignation of Lord Fraser, a QC and former Scottish Office Minister, was followed by Lord Pilkington of Oxenford, Lord Bowness, and the Earl of Home, the son of the former Prime Minister, Baroness Strange, a Tory backbencher, resigned the whip and joined the crossbenches.

Lord Fraser said yesterday: "I thought Robert Cranborne should not have been sacked. The outcome which he achieved in these negotiations

was the right one. But having encouraged Robert Cranborne to take the line that he did, I felt I could only honourably proffer my resignation."

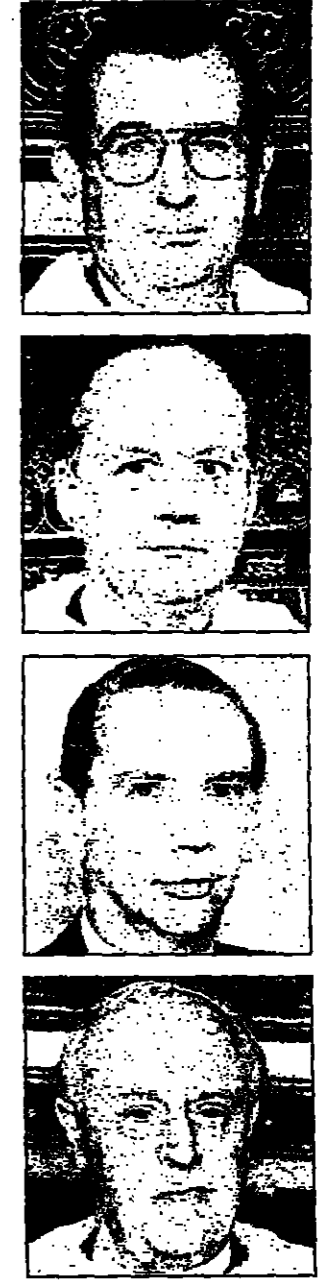
Lord Fraser is a close friend of Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, who takes over as deputy leader. The 60-year-old former mathematics teacher is a doughty political fighter known as much for his wit as sharp instincts and led the fight earlier this month against the Government's European elections Bill.

Lord Bowness, the 55-year-old former council leader who

resigned as environment spokesman, said he was amazed that Mr Hague was now appearing to accept the deal which Lord Cranborne had brokered.

Lord Pilkington, 65, the former Eton master who resigned as education and employment spokesman, insisted there was "massive support" among Tory backbench peers for the Cranborne deal.

The 15th Earl of Home, 55, who inherited his father's disclaimed earldom, resigned as Tory trade and industry spokesman in the Lords.



log-loving  
y that wa  
ght to hee

ply Postal  
ICE TO INVESTORS

**It doesn't just keep your engine running. It also helps drive the economy**

Stop - Go economics will become just a thing of the past, if you take the example of our Cardiff factory.

By April 1998, production of alternators had reached a staggering 20 million.

More importantly, over 80% of our 1997 production was exported. Of course, none of this would have been achieved without major investment in training and education.

The Bosch Cardiff factory is one of the world's most modern industrial complexes which has achieved award-winning recognition throughout the automotive industry.

Back in 1919, Robert Bosch said: "I could never bear to think that someone could test one of my products and prove that my work was somehow inferior." What was our guiding principle then is our guiding principle today.

**Bosch. We bring innovation**

...assisted by Mr. Rush.

# Sheep with a nose for rustling

### Tests on Polly and Molly could help to reduce crime, writes Gillian Harris

POLLY and Molly, the cloned sheep, had their nose prints taken by forensic scientists yesterday in an exercise designed to prove that even identical animals have unique snouts.

After a short scuffle as the American scientists attempted to get to grips with the world's first cloned siblings, the animals had their muzzles coated with printers' ink then pressed onto a chemical-saturated pad at the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh.

The experiment is expected to show that cloned mammals retain the equivalent of a unique fingerprint. Scientists have never had the opportunity to take nose prints from cloned siblings before but they were keen to try the technique, currently used to identify valuable stud animals, on transgenic mammals.

The institute's most famous sheep, Dolly, the world's first cloned mammal, was excluded from the tests because she has no cloned siblings.

Ken Gill, from the Mississippi Crime Laboratory, who took the prints from Polly and Molly, said: "We want to see

how similar or dissimilar sheep nose prints will be. We expect them to be different but we want to write that chapter."

The technique is used increasingly in America to identify stolen pets because microchip tags have a high failure rate. The microchips, usually inserted in the animals' ears, can also be removed by thieves. Mr Gill said: "Nose printing is the way to go."

His colleague, Don Lock, a forensic scientist with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, said: "We think this will determine once again that the prints of no two animals are alike, and even if they are cloned brother and sister the nose prints will not be alike."

In human beings no two fingerprints are the same. Even identical twins, who share the same DNA, have identifiable whorls and ridges that emerge in the womb. In animals the distinguishing mark lies in the pattern between the nostrils and skin ridges, which is unique.

If yesterday's study finds that clones share identical prints it could have profound



The cloned siblings at the Roslin Institute, where American scientists took their nose prints yesterday to see if they could be identified by the technique

implications for fighting crime if human beings are ever cloned. Criminals caught by their prints could claim that they were left by a rogue clone.

The research will have more immediate impact on the detection of rustling. Mr Lock and Mr Gill spend most of their time travelling around agricultural shows in America in search of stolen animals, which can be identified by a nose print. They also help owners to trace missing pets.

The results of the experiment will be published in a few weeks' time.

# Public turns its back on cloning

PUBLIC opinion is strongly against cloning, even for producing spare parts, according to a survey for the Wellcome Foundation published yesterday (Ian Murray writes).

Even women who were infertile or had lost children opposed the idea strongly and lesbians said they did not approve of methods of reproduction without men.

The NOP survey, which was conducted jointly with Research Business International, was designed to discover opinions from a cross-section of society. A representative sample of 79 adults were interviewed in groups of eight about the implications of creating genetically identical copies of organisms in the laboratory.

The results revealed "considerable unease" at the prospect of men becoming biologically redundant and none of the women wished to see a world where men were not needed for reproduction. There were also fears about the psychological effects on a child born as a clone.

Participants thought it "unnatural and dangerously self-centred" to want to produce a child that was the perfect genetic copy of either its mother or father.

Most people found it shocking and disturbing. Suzanne King, head of the consultation and education department at the trust, said: "One woman said she could visualise a spare parts cloning plant: 'I can just imagine this factory with all these little hearts pumping away in jars.'"

Only two women from a group who were having difficulty in conceiving said they would consider cloning as a means of having a family.

representative sample of 79 adults were interviewed in groups of eight about the implications of creating genetically identical copies of organisms in the laboratory.

The results revealed "considerable unease" at the prospect of men becoming biologically redundant and none of the women wished to see a world where men were not needed for reproduction. There were also fears about the psychological effects on a child born as a clone.

Participants thought it "unnatural and dangerously self-centred" to want to produce a child that was the perfect genetic copy of either its mother or father.

Most people found it shocking and disturbing. Suzanne King, head of the consultation and education department at the trust, said: "One woman said she could visualise a spare parts cloning plant: 'I can just imagine this factory with all these little hearts pumping away in jars.'"

Only two women from a group who were having difficulty in conceiving said they would consider cloning as a means of having a family.

representative sample of 79 adults were interviewed in groups of eight about the implications of creating genetically identical copies of organisms in the laboratory.

The results revealed "considerable unease" at the prospect of men becoming biologically redundant and none of the women wished to see a world where men were not needed for reproduction. There were also fears about the psychological effects on a child born as a clone.

Participants thought it "unnatural and dangerously self-centred" to want to produce a child that was the perfect genetic copy of either its mother or father.

Most people found it shocking and disturbing. Suzanne King, head of the consultation and education department at the trust, said: "One woman said she could visualise a spare parts cloning plant: 'I can just imagine this factory with all these little hearts pumping away in jars.'"

Only two women from a group who were having difficulty in conceiving said they would consider cloning as a means of having a family.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Man had 328 wild birds' eggs

A man aged 39 yesterday admitted possessing more than 300 wild birds' eggs. Philip Adrian Beard, from Coventry, pleaded guilty at the city's magistrates' court to four charges relating to 328 eggs from kestrels, choughs, Arctic terns and other species.

The case against Beard, who had a previous conviction for taking birds' eggs from nests, was adjourned to establish why he had the eggs. Nigel Wilkins, for the prosecution, said Beard was a "professional" collector.

### Shooting charge

Darrie Smith, 26, was charged over an armed robbery in Barbados during which a British tourist was critically injured. Paula Bridges, 41, from Suffolk, was shot in the heart during the raid on an hotel in Bridgetown in October.

### Sex attack arrest

Police hunting a serial rapist in the Midlands have arrested a man of 34, in Northampton. At least eight women were attacked in their homes between 1984 and 1990. The cases were linked last month after advances in DNA testing.

### Porn again

Pornographic magazines are being recycled to make Bibles for the Philippine arm of the British and Foreign Bible Society. It was disclosed that 3,000 copies of magazines confiscated by customs would be recycled, rather than burnt.

### Murder funeral

More than 150 people attended the funeral yesterday of Jenny King, 22, who was murdered a month ago as she walked home from a nightclub in Bristol. A 21-year-old man, Paul Hunt, has been charged with her murder.

### Elizabeth Forsyth

A report (October 23) should have made clear that the conviction and sentence of five years' jail for laundering £395,000, imposed on Elizabeth Forsyth (a former aide to Asif Nazki), was quashed on appeal, on the ground that the jury was misled. We apologise for any embarrassment caused.

### CORRECTION

In a report on the Turner Prize (December 2), remarks made by the artist Chris Offill were wrongly attributed to Gerald Kaufman. The Labour MP in fact said that Offill was the "obvious winner", though he would have preferred the paintings "without the dung". We apologise for the error.

# Dixons

Most stores open Sunday

## GREAT GIFTS FOR THE FAMILY

**GIFTS UNDER £10**

**PRIMAX ECHO MOUSE**  
Ergonomic design  
3 buttons  
£5.99

**PACKARD BELL DESKTOP ORGANISER**  
30 memory  
£6.99

**MIRANDA COMPACT CAMERA**  
By viewfinder  
Built-in flash  
£8.99

**JVC EASYVIEW VHS VHS PAL**  
18 Hours Total Recording Time  
£8.99

**GIFTS UNDER £20**

**BT DUET 80 TELEPHONE**  
10 number memory  
£13.99

**IO BUILDERS My Little Talking Computer for Children**  
aged 3-6 years  
£18.99

**MATSUI KT7800 STEREO CASSETTE RECORDER WITH KARAOKE FEATURE**  
£19.99

**SOUTH OFFICIAL PC DESKTOP THEME AND SCREENSAVER**  
£19.99

**GIFTS UNDER £30**

**POLAROID INSTANT PICTURE CAMERA**  
Built-in flash  
£22.99

**CASIO EXCLUSIVE CASIO TITANIC PERSONAL ORGANISER**  
64K memory  
£24.99

**GEOMARC 7010 DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE**  
Fully digital - no need for tapes  
£24.99

**STAR TREK OFFICIAL PC CD-ROM GAME**  
£29.99

**SAISON CD95 PERSONAL CD PLAYER**  
£29.99

**MAXELL 90 PACK**  
Over 2 hours  
£29.99

**GIFTS UNDER £50**

**PLAYSTATION STEERING WHEEL WITH RACING PEDALS**  
£39.99

**BT EASYREACH CELLO TEXT PRINTER**  
£39.99

**MICROTEK 3300CX**  
£49.99

**MATSUI CD RECORDER**  
£49.99

**PHILIPS VHS2000**  
£49.99

**OLYMPUS 7421**  
£49.99

**GIFTS UNDER £100**

**PACKARD BELL CLUB 40 CYBER 300**  
£799

**CASIO TV LCD POCKET COLOUR TV**  
£69.99

**GRUNDIG CD RECORDER**  
£89.99

**CANON MICRO COLOUR SUBLENER**  
£89.99

**SONY PERSONAL CD PLAYER**  
£89.99

**CELLNET EASYLIFE**  
£99.99

**MATSUI TAVER**  
£99.99

**TRIPLE GAMEPACK JUST £24.99**

WHEN YOU BUY ODDWORLD 2 ARE'S EXODUS FOR £44.99

£69.95

**WE'VE CHRISTMAS ALL WRAPPED UP**

**PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN**

**Dixons**

There's a Great Deal going on

ON-LINE SHOP: [www.dixons.co.uk](http://www.dixons.co.uk) Part of DSG Retail Ltd. ORDER HOTLINE: 0800 68 28 68

**PC PLAN** Example: Cash price £999. Credit subject to status. Credit 19.99% APR. Credit 19.99% APR. Credit 19.99% APR. Credit 19.99% APR.

## Review of babies in prisons

By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

FACILITIES for mothers and babies in jails in England and Wales are to be reviewed after a challenge in the High Court last month by a mother threatened with having her baby taken from her.

The review is to consider whether existing facilities in specialised mother and baby units are adequate and the process for allocating spaces.

Mothers have been able to have their babies with them in prison since 1947: the first mother and baby unit opened in Holloway jail in 1966.

Richard Th, Director-General of the Prison Service, said it was time for a full review to look at the principle of holding mothers and babies in prison, the working of the four units and the admission criteria.

There are four mother and baby units - at Holloway in North London, Sval in Cheshire, Askham Grange near York and New Hall near Wakefield.

	Gross % Annual	Gross % Monthly
£100,000 or more	7.00	6.78
£25,000 - £99,999	6.95	6.74
£5,000 - £24,999	6.75	6.55

	Gross % Annual	Gross % Monthly
£250,000 or more	6.15	5.98
£100,000 - £249,999	5.95	5.79
£25,000 - £99,999	5.60	5.46
£5,000 - £24,999	5.15	5.03

	Gross % (Applied)	Gross % (CAR)
12-month Bond	5.50	5.50
6-month Bond	5.13	5.20

Monthly rates, when compounded, equal the annual rates shown.  
Compounded annual rate when interest added to the proceeds.  
Details of rates are available by calling 0845 717800 or from any branch of Chestnham & Gloucester plc.

### C&G Channel Islands Limited

C&G Channel Islands Ltd, PO, Box 262, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands GY1 1QE. Telephone 01481 715422. Fax 01481 715496.

C&G Channel Islands Limited is incorporated, and has its principal place of business, in Guernsey. Registered Office: South Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey.

It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chestnham & Gloucester plc, which is registered in England and Wales. The ultimate parent company is Lloyd's 123 Group plc, which is registered in Scotland. C&G Channel Islands Limited is registered as a deposit taker by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission under the Banking Supervision (Guernsey) Law 1994, as amended.

Deposits made with C&G Channel Islands Limited are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under the UK Banking Act 1987.

The interest and paid-up capital of C&G Channel Islands Limited cannot exceed £24 million.

Copies of the most recent audited accounts are available on request.

We may change the rates of these accounts at any time. If we do, we will notify you by at least one of the ways set out in the accounts' conditions. Rate changes will affect these accounts' relative competitiveness and we cannot promise that rates will be better than those available elsewhere.

# Church to evict pair on Christmas Day

Leaseholders who spent thousands restoring a period house stand to lose it all, reports Frances Gibb

A COUPLE who spent more than £100,000 restoring a listed home rented from the Church Commissioners have been told they must leave when their lease expires on Christmas Day and are not entitled to any compensation for their work.

William and Esther Mackenzie have spent 15 years renovating the Regency property in Chelsea, West London. They are appealing to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. George Carey, over the "moral injustice" of being forced from their home because, they say, their restoration work has priced it beyond their reach. Extending their 20-year lease for a similar period would cost £400,000.

The couple's work on the Grade II listed four-storey house includes a new roof, plumbing, electricity, new kitchen, bathrooms, windows, balcony and marble floors.

Mr Mackenzie is an architect, said: "I know that legally they have got us over a barrel. But morally it does seem that they should recompense us in some way because the house was restored and extensively refurbished far beyond any normal standard of repair."

He added: "Both my wife and I are practising Christians

and we believe that morality is not just something to be practised on Sundays but a principle which applies to all aspects of life."

Mrs Mackenzie had bought the remaining 13 years of a 20-year lease from the previous resident for £45,000 and then embarked on what turned into a major renovation.

She had to borrow money to complete the work and decided in the late 1980s to put the house on the market to pay off the debt. But with the housing slump the house was then worth less than the debt.

She later met Mr Mackenzie, who raised the money to pay off the debt and bought the remaining lease from her. They have lived in the house since.

Mr Mackenzie's brother, Norman, said: "My sister-in-law has put her life's savings into this house and the Church Commissioners will reap the whole profit. If the Archbishop wants to tell the world this Christmas to be more caring, then let him begin at home."

"The new market value of £400,000 takes no account whatever of her investment. It is morally indefensible — because this property has reached its current value solely and directly as a result of the



Carey faces plea for a rethink by the Church

work she has done," he added. The Church Commissioners, who manage historic assets on behalf of the Church of England, said: "Very regrettable, it appears that Mr and Mrs Mackenzie have been ill-advised."

A spokesman said that, when a leaseholder spends money on a property and then sells or surrenders the remainder of the lease, that investment can be reflected in the price. But in this case, he said, the lease was expiring within a few weeks.

He said that, when the lease on the property was acquired by Mrs Mackenzie, the commissioners were not involved. The couple had spent money on the property "in full knowledge that the remaining part of the lease was short and ex-

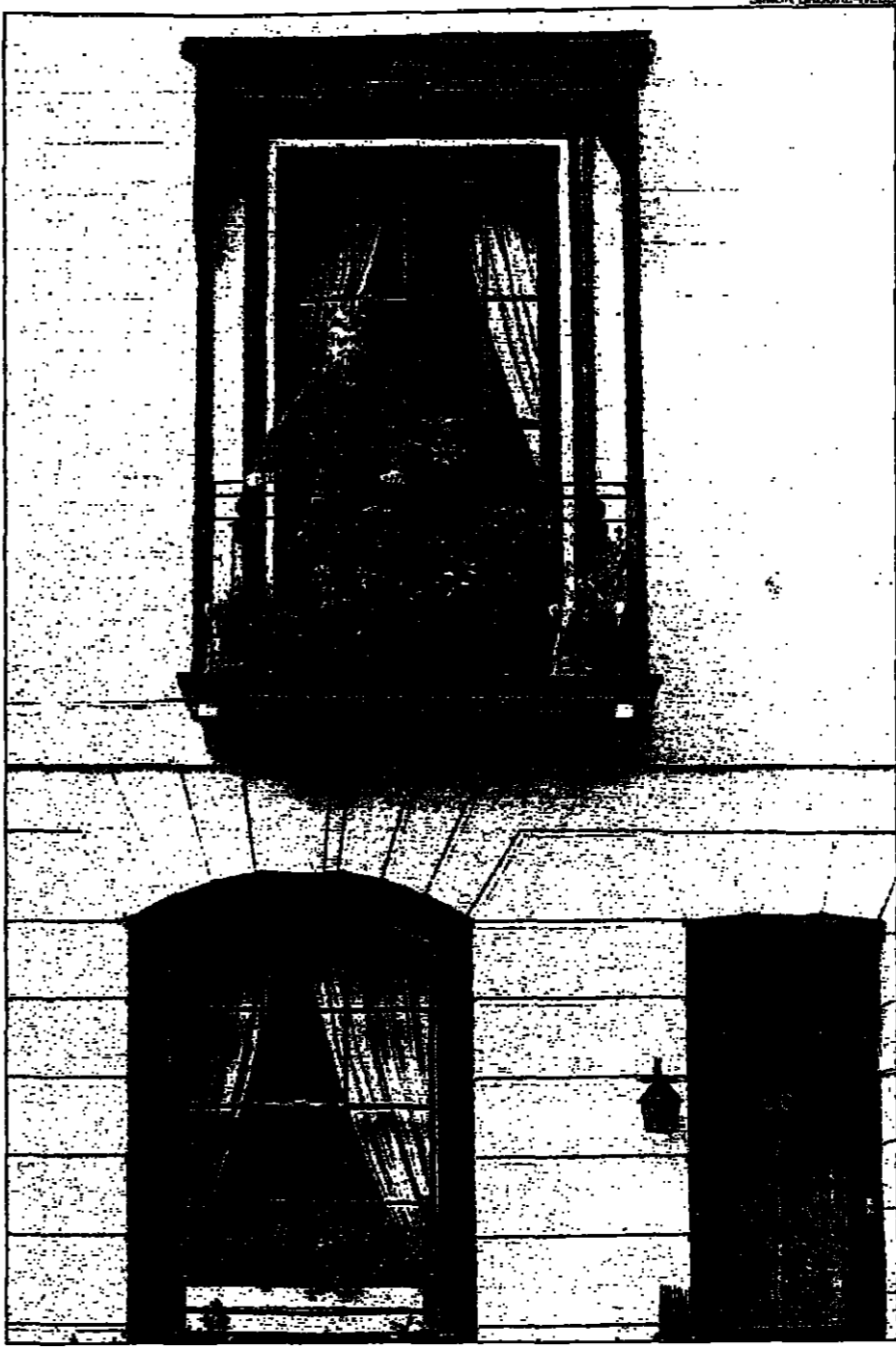
penditure might therefore not be recouped". He added that the commissioners had a legal duty to obtain the best return from properties. The money raised goes towards the ministry of the Church and to clergy pay and pensions.

Jennifer Israel, a council member of the Law Society and property lawyer, said that, if the lease had been for 21 years, the couple would have had security of tenure under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954. However, the law provided no remedy for them.

"They could strictly remove all the items they have put in — the fitted kitchens and so on, put the floors back to lino, but in practical terms no one does that. Perhaps they should have sought advice before spending all this money. I would not expect anyone to take on a 13-year lease and do more than make themselves comfortable."

Professor James Driscoll, a law professor at South Bank University, said: "The landlords would certainly be under no legal obligation unless they had in any way encouraged the lessees to do this work and that does not seem to be the case."

Mr Mackenzie said that he and his wife had not yet decided what to do. "We are supposed to leave on Christmas Day and friends have invited us to stay, but really that is the last thing we want. We are hoping the Church will have second thoughts."



Graham Mackenzie at the Chelsea home that he must leave without compensation

# Doctors 'failing to spot child abuse'

By IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 200 babies are killed or suffer permanent disability in Britain every year as a result of being shaken, but doctors are failing to spot new cases, it is claimed today.

In a study of 33 babies treated for brain haemorrhages in Wales and Bristol, only 14 were thoroughly medically examined after being taken to hospital, say results in the *British Medical Journal*. The study, by doctors from the University of Wales and Southmead Hospital, Bristol, found that six had a history of repeated admissions with lethargy and drowsiness before the correct diagnosis was made. Even when a doctor identified "shaken baby syndrome", abuse was not identified as the cause even though it was almost certainly responsible.

"Paediatricians are sometimes not diagnosing child abuse even when investigation shows the diagnosis seems inescapable," Ben Lloyd, consultant paediatrician at the Royal Free Hospital in London, writes in a commentary. "If we do not recognise abuse, no action will be taken to protect the child and the child's siblings."

Nine of the 33 babies died and 15 had a profound disability. Criminal proceedings were started in 14 cases, and abuse was eventually confirmed in 21 cases. The researchers conclude that 27 were highly suggestive of child abuse.

# Old tyre problem needs a new green solution

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

URGENT action is needed deal with Britain's growing problem of old tyres, environmental watchdogs say today. They fear that illegal dumping will increase, bringing threats to health, unless more are recycled or incinerated.

More than 37 million car and lorry tyres reach the end of their lives annually. The number is expected to rise by as much as 60 per cent over the next 23 years as road traffic increases. Yet a key disposal route, putting tyres in rubbish tips, is due to be outlawed under European environmental and safety laws.

The Environment Agency fears that that flytipping and illegal stockpiling will rise alarmingly, presenting a serious fire hazard and environmental risk to air quality, drinking water and wildlife in rivers, lakes and streams. Jan Pentreath, the agency's chief

scientist, said: "A massive predicted increase in usage combined with the banning of one of the main disposal routes could be a recipe for disaster."

The agency says that there are strong arguments in favour of using millions of old tyres as fuel for energy-greedy cement kilns. Green groups fear that more tyre burning means greater pollution from hazardous materials such as heavy metals, but the agency has been monitoring the burning of tyres at four kilns at Stoke-up-Trent, Keston in Rutland, Northfleet in Kent and Westbury in Wiltshire. It says that the energy content of tyres is second only to oil and superior to coal, and poses no extra environmental risk. The cement industry estimates that it could use nearly half of each year's waste tyres.

The Elm power plant near Wolverhampton turns waste

tyres into electricity and uses about eight million a year. The market for retreading and reusing old tyres has been under heavy pressure from the rising pound, which has hit exports, and an influx of imported budget tyres. In 1996 just over 30 per cent of old tyres were retreaded, but that is believed to have fallen.

About 27 per cent of old tyres are put into landfills but by 2006 that option is expected to be shut under the European Landfill Directive. The National Tyre Distributors Association is calling for a 70p levy on new tyres to pay for the rising costs of disposal.

The agency also says that more needs to be done to make tyres last longer and to improve road surfaces to reduce wear and tear. It also backs more use of ground-up tyres in areas such as playground surfaces.

Where are you going to find the time to do all your Christmas shopping? Here.

Check the list below for shopping days between now and Christmas.

BRANCH

LONDON

- John Lewis, Oxford Street
- John Lewis, Brent Cross
- John Lewis, Kingston
- Peter Jones, Sloane Square

ENGLAND

- John Lewis, Chelsea
- John Lewis, Cribbs Causeway
- John Lewis, High Wycombe
- John Lewis, Milton Keynes
- John Lewis, Peterborough
- John Lewis, Watlington
- Bathbridge, Newcastle
- Bonds, Norwich
- Calson, Windsor
- Cole Brothers, Sheffield
- George Henry Lee, Liverpool
- Hervas, Reading
- Jessup & Son, Nottingham
- Knight & Lee, Southsea
- Robert Sayle, Cambridge
- Stevens, Watford
- Tyrell & Green, Southampton

SCOTLAND

- John Lewis, Aberdeen
- John Lewis, Edinburgh

SUNDAY AND MONDAY OPENING  
(Open Sundays 12 noon-4pm)

- now open 7 days a week (Sun 1-5pm)
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week (Sun 1-5pm)

- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week
- now open 7 days a week

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

- Thursday 8pm (Other days 7pm)
- Monday to Friday 8pm
- Thursday, Friday 8pm
- Monday to Saturday 7pm

- Monday to Friday 8pm
- Monday to Friday 8pm
- Monday to Friday 8pm (From 7th Dec)
- Thursday, Friday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Wednesday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Wednesday 8pm
- Thursday, Friday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm
- Thursday 8pm

JOHN LEWIS  
Department Stores

Stansted to Munich for under £79 return. Wunderbar.

Lufthansa Specials

Terms & Conditions. 1. This offer is available for travel in Economy class only. 2. All bookings must be made by 05 February 1999. 3. This offer is valid for travel commencing on or after 23 November 1998 and ending 30 February 1999. All travel must be completed by 31 February 1999. The number of seats available for this offer is restricted and seats allocated to this offer may be fully booked even though seats are available on the particular flight. 4. All fares are for return travel and are subject to a minimum stay of 2 nights. 5. All payments must be paid in full at time of booking. 6. The price of £79 is inclusive of all applicable taxes, and is correct at time of going to press. 7. No child discount is available on this special offer. 8. Changes of reservation/return are not permitted. 9. Passengers will be eligible to collect miles on the Lufthansa Miles & More programme. 10. Miles can be redeemed for flights on all Star Alliance carriers. Lufthansa Miles & More programme Miles & More. Miles can be redeemed for flights on all Star Alliance carriers.

AY DECEMBER 4 1998  
NEWS IN BRIEF  
Man had 328 wild birds' eggs  
Shooting club  
Murder trial

# Farmers fear £160m cost of antibiotic ban

EU likely to outlaw drug in pig and poultry feed, writes Michael Hornsby

PIG and poultry farmers could suffer losses of up to £160 million if the use of four antibiotics used in animal feed to promote faster growth is banned, it was claimed yesterday. European Union agriculture ministers, including Nick Brown for Britain, are expected to vote in favour of outlawing the drugs at their next meeting in Brussels on December 14 and 15.

The European Commission has long been pressing for such action because of fears, but as yet no undisputed scientific proof, that routine adding of antibiotics to feed has weakened the potency of related antibiotics used to treat human infections.

Britain was among ten out of 15 member states which voted for the ban at a meeting of the EU's Standing Committee on Animal Feedstuffs on Wednesday in Brussels. If the ban goes ahead, farmers will have till the end of next June to stop using the antibiotics.

The National Office for Animal Health, representing manufacturers of animal medicines, said withdrawal of the drugs over such a short period could have catastrophic effects on producers. Roger Cook, its director, said: "The Meat and Livestock Commission has estimated the ban could cost the pig industry £80 million, and a similar loss is likely for poultry farmers."

"There is no clear scientific justification for the ban. The ban will not apply to imports of meat from animals treated with these drugs outside the EU, which will thereby gain a competitive advantage. We are in danger of crippling the industry and denying consumers home produce."

Farmers say the drugs help to control gut bacteria that would otherwise slow animals' growth rate. It has been estimated that their use saves pig farmers up to £36 million a year on feed costs. The four drugs are spiramycin, tylosin phosphate, virginiamycin and zinc bacitracin, all of which

have equivalents used in human medicine. Peter Rudman, animal health and welfare adviser to the National Farmers' Union, said: "A gradual phasing out of the use of these drugs was probably inevitable, but the speed at which a ban is now being pushed through is alarming."

Farmers point to the experience of Sweden, which banned antibiotics in feed ten years ago but then suffered five years of higher rates of animal illness and mortality and an increase in the overall use of veterinary drugs.

The Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday that the decision to vote for a ban was in line with scientific advice from the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food and the Veterinary Products Committee.

"We would, however, prefer a longer phasing-out period of 12 months, rather than six months, and British ministers will be pressing for this at the meeting in Brussels."

Sybil Russell, Christie's specialist in Old Masters, with Canaletto's first recorded painting, which has not been seen in public since its completion in 1720. The imaginary view of a Venetian square, known as the *Capriccio of a Piazza*, is to be sold by the auction house in London on December 16. The painting, estimated to fetch £80,000, is believed to have been acquired before 1730 by Field Marshal Mohann Matthias von der Schulenburg (1661-1747), who became one of the most important patrons of his day. The

work has remained with the family since and still bears the Schulenburg inventory number. The image's free handling of perspective reflects the Venetian master's early training as a theatre set designer. Ms Russell said that the painting was "vital evidence for a reassessment of the artist's often misunderstood early years as it has a bearing on the attribution of a number of other early works". She added: "Our knowledge of his early period is quite hazy, so this is really quite exciting."



## First for Canaletto

Sybil Russell, Christie's specialist in Old Masters, with Canaletto's first recorded painting, which has not been seen in public since its completion in 1720. The imaginary view of a Venetian square, known as the *Capriccio of a Piazza*, is to be sold by the auction house in London on December 16. The painting, estimated to fetch £80,000, is believed to have been acquired before 1730 by Field Marshal Mohann Matthias von der Schulenburg (1661-1747), who became one of the most important patrons of his day. The

work has remained with the family since and still bears the Schulenburg inventory number. The image's free handling of perspective reflects the Venetian master's early training as a theatre set designer. Ms Russell said that the painting was "vital evidence for a reassessment of the artist's often misunderstood early years as it has a bearing on the attribution of a number of other early works". She added: "Our knowledge of his early period is quite hazy, so this is really quite exciting."

work has remained with the family since and still bears the Schulenburg inventory number. The image's free handling of perspective reflects the Venetian master's early training as a theatre set designer. Ms Russell said that the painting was "vital evidence for a reassessment of the artist's often misunderstood early years as it has a bearing on the attribution of a number of other early works". She added: "Our knowledge of his early period is quite hazy, so this is really quite exciting."



Drugs in pork may weaken their potency in human beings



## "Do you have better things to do with your life than worry about interest rates? I do."

Before we designed the New Virgin Deposit Account, we asked people what they felt about savings plans and what, more than anything, they wanted.

We learned that:

- People are tired of continually having to shop around for a good interest rate.
- People hate missing out on the best rates because they aren't rich enough.
- People loathe being suckered by high rates which plummet without warning.

Most people want:

An account which would always give them a really good rate of interest (not the highest, because they've learned that the highest rates usually have a catch), with a company they can trust to keep its word. They also wanted easy access and no hidden nasties.

We created the Virgin Deposit Account to fulfil these wishes.

### The Virgin interest rate challenge

1. We aim always to offer you a great rate, currently 6.25% gross\*
2. We guarantee that our rate will never be lower than 1% below the UK clearing bank base rate until at least the end of 2001.
3. We promise not to let our rate fall below this level at any time after that without giving you three months advance written notice. That way you'll have plenty of time to move your money if you want to.

Now beat that.

If you want the hassle-free assurance of knowing that your savings are doing just about as well as they can, this is the account for you. We say "just about", because if you are prepared to invest not just money, but a lot of time and

effort, you can probably get yourself a better return than any one company, including Virgin Direct, can offer. But...

Here's what you'll need to do to beat our deposit account: You'll have to check the papers every week for the highest interest rate and frequently switch your money from one account to another.

You'll have to keep doing this, week in, week out, year in, year out. At the same time you must watch out for two things:

1. Temptingly high rates that are just that, a temptation. When you get close to the small print you discover you either haven't got enough savings to qualify, or your money could be tied up with long notice periods.
2. The practice of attracting new customers with a high rate of interest and then quietly cropping the rate. This is so commonly done that it is known in the industry as 'harvesting'.

If you can put up with the constant checking, form filling and hassle, you can probably squeeze a few extra percentage points out of your savings. But...

Do you have the time to watch interest rates like a hawk? Despite the fact that almost every week there's a new higher rate on offer here or there, six out of seven people don't bother to move their money. They've told us they have better things to do with their lives than watch interest rates. Now they can simply take out a Virgin Deposit Account and the worry will be at an end. If you feel as they do, all you have to do to solve your savings problems once and for all is call the number below and speak to one of our friendly telephone team. Or visit [www.virgin-direct.co.uk](http://www.virgin-direct.co.uk)

deposit account  
08456 10 10 20  
direct personal financial service

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

\* The Virgin Deposit Account is a personal deposit account with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. This rate is before the deduction of income tax at source. The rate is variable - correct at time of going to press. Any changes to our interest rate will be made within one month of a move in base rate. Interest is paid annually. Withdrawals by direct credit to your current account - normally within 3 business days. Calls are recorded and randomly monitored.



The Mercedes 500SL found in a container at Teesport

## Stolen Mercedes found at docks

By PAUL WILKINSON

A £55,000 sports car, stolen last week from the film producer Henry Dent-Brocklehurst, was recovered yesterday as it was about to be shipped to West Africa.

The almost-new Mercedes 500SL sports coupé was found in a container on the dockside at Teesport, Middlesbrough.

It was the third luxury vehicle recovered in a week by detectives from the Cleveland Vehicle Intelligence Unit, working with customs officers on Teesside. Last Friday they found another Mercedes 500SL sports car and a Chrysler Jeep Cherokee in another container.

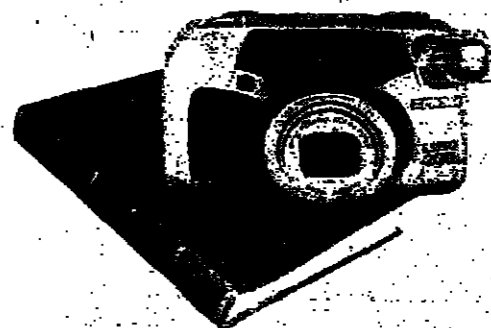
Mr Dent-Brocklehurst, who owns Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire, said: "I was afraid that my car had already left the country and would never be found." Detective Ser-



Dent-Brocklehurst: afraid car would not be found

geant Neil Fox, from the Vehicle Intelligence Unit, said yesterday: "These cars had been stolen by professionals who would know exactly where to go to sell them." He said that an estimated 25,000 luxury cars a year, worth £700 million, are smuggled out of Britain to buyers in Africa, Asia and east Europe.

MEMORIES OF THE PAST MAKE THE PERFECT PRESENT.



As the world's longest zoom compact, the Pentax ESPIO 200 is the ideal way for anyone to capture those never-to-be-forgotten moments whenever and wherever they happen. Especially as, once captured, they can be displayed in the elegant leather-bound album\* included in the price! Features include a mighty 48-200mm retractable power zoom lens, 5 point automatic focus, automatic exposure, built-in flash with red eye reduction, six different flash modes, mid-roll 'panoramic' mode, automatic film loading and wind/rewind, and a self-timer. £329.

\*Subject to availability. Photographic Department, Lower Ground Floor.

Harrods  
HARRODS LIMITED, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON SW1X 7XL  
Telephone 0171-730 1234



# White House gets \$300m makeover

THE US President, lacking privacy in the White House, is to be given his own private den, gym and games room as part of the biggest revamp of the mansion in its history.

Sadly for President Clinton, who has enjoyed much of his recreation in a windowless corridor outside the Oval Office, the \$300 million (£180 million) facelift and rebuilding will benefit only his successors.

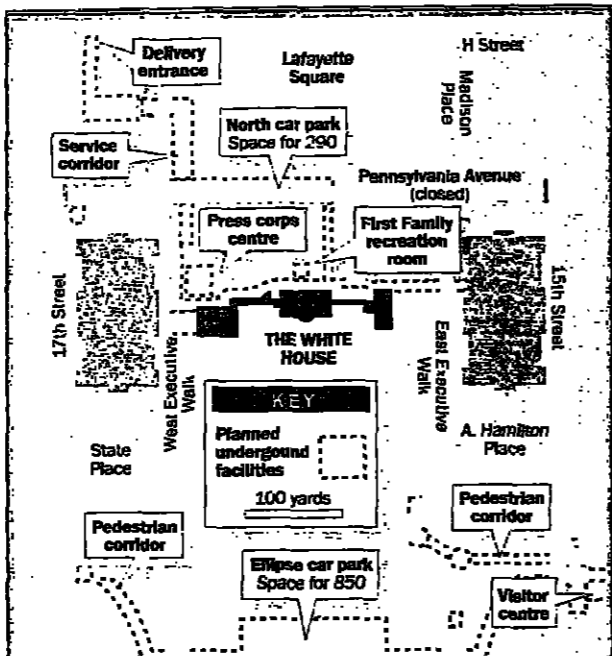
The first comprehensive overhaul of the White House since Pierre L'Enfant laid it out in 1791 will take 20 years and provide expanded quarters for the presidential family and desperately needed storage rooms and meeting areas. It will also see the banishment of cars from the grounds.

A report outlining the plans, by the National Park Service, painted a picture of perpetual chaos in the White House because of the cramped conditions. After six years of discussions, the report concluded that the best way to expand at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is to dig down and construct new working areas below the existing building.

One of the most urgently needed spaces is the proposed 3,000sq ft, \$2.3 million recreation area for the President and his family which is planned to be a combination of the American father's dream, a den, a games room and family area and possibly a gym.

"It will be very informal and flexible to the needs of each

## Damian Whitworth in Washington reports on a home fit for Presidents



family coming in. So much of the White House is historical and formal. They need somewhere to kick back and watch TV," the parks service said.

New storage areas, also below ground, will mean that the President's bowling alley will not have to be cleared of clutter every time he wants to play and will allow tables and

chairs for functions to be stored on the premises. At present, they have to be removed to a warehouse off the premises after every event.

"Closets, corridors and driveways overflow with furniture and equipment, as though the staff were having a tag sale. No modern hotel would put up with such chaos,

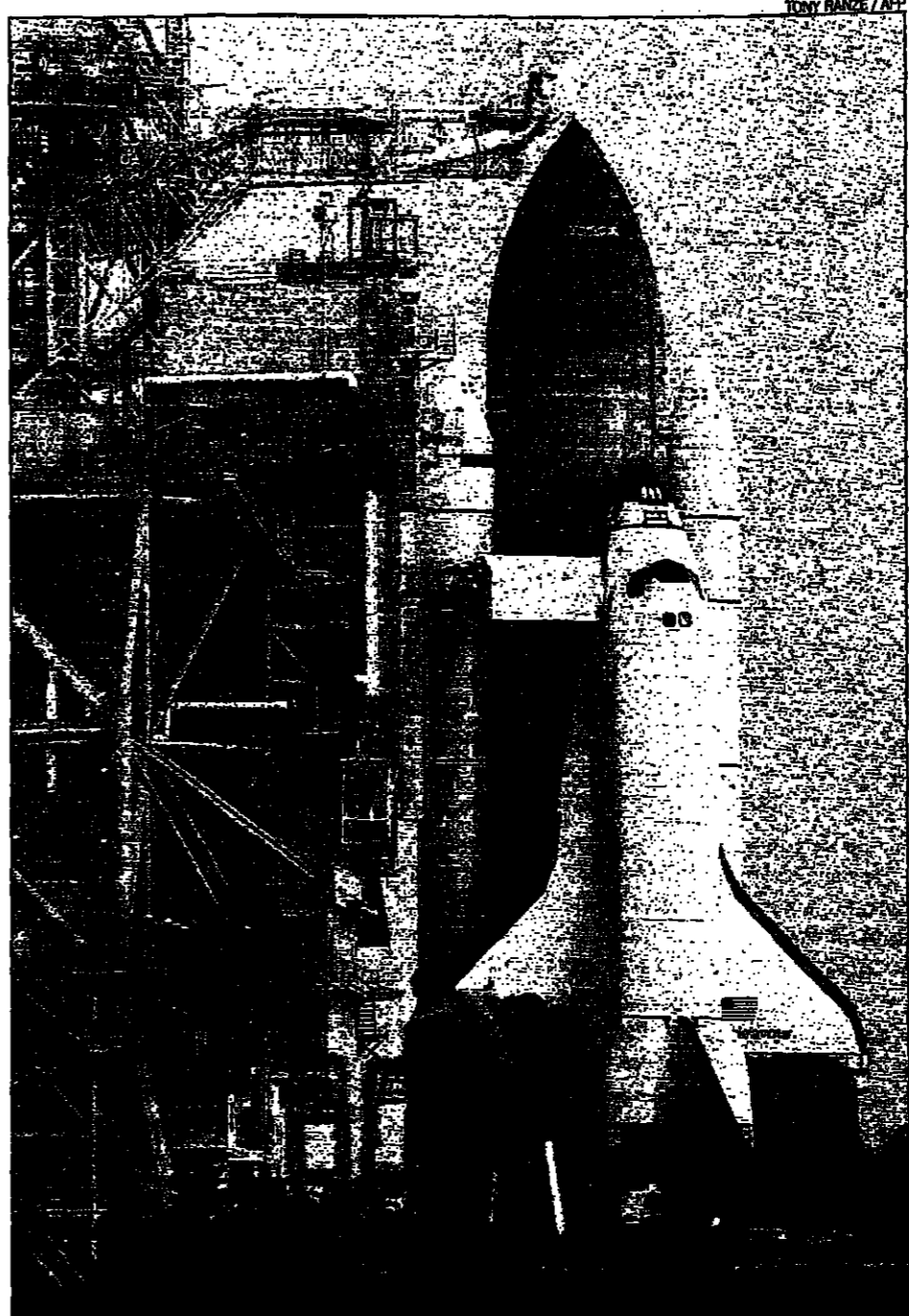
yet the White House has been doing it for years because it has no choice," the report said.

Car parks beneath Pennsylvania Avenue and the Ellipse, the area in front of the south lawn where people can stroll, will clear the grounds and the Ellipse of vehicles.

To stop dignitaries having to run the gamut of goods lorries, deliveries will be made to bays below the Old Executive Building and then transported around in golf buggies. In the early days of the White House it was possible for anybody who so wished to walk in off the street into the President's home. Today security is tight, but Bob Stanton, Director of the National Park Service, said that it was crucial that the public still had access and the visitors' centre is to be expanded to include a museum and theatres.

An underground moving walkway will take visitors to the entrance to the White House. "The most treasured element of this place is that here, in America, the people must have access. They must be able to come near. They must be able to see the home and workplace of their leader," Mr Stanton said.

The media, now crammed into the old swimming pool in conditions that the report called "resembling a set from a 1950s television show" will also disappear from view to subterranean, but more spacious, quarters.



The shuttle is inspected after its launch was called off. Nasa will try again today

## Shuttle delayed by 'trivial' problem

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

NASA's trouble-plagued attempt to build an American-Russian space station suffered another hitch yesterday when the shuttle's first construction flight was aborted.

Four minutes before the pre-dawn lift-off of the shuttle Endeavour, the cockpit master alarm — a pair of rectangular red lights — began flashing and beeping. By the time controllers had established that it was a trivial problem, they had missed the five-minute launch window for that day.

"We don't want to launch with something we don't understand", Ralph Roe, the launch director, said. The problem surfaced when the three hydraulic power units were switched on: one unit showed a fleeting drop in pressure. An hour after the cancelled take-off, the six astronauts crawled out of the cockpit, two throwing up their hands in mock exasperation. They matched the frustration of Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, and dignitaries from the 16 countries supporting the project, who had assembled in the drizzling rain. Delay of the launch, which has been rescheduled for today, will cost Nasa \$600,000 (£360,000).

The launch window each day is tight because the shuttle must link with the first component, placed in space two weeks ago by the Russians.

## Mother who hired stripper for girls' party faces prison

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A MAN and woman from the San Francisco area have discovered the quick way onto daytime television. He is a stripper, tall, dark, handsome and 29. She is a mother, eager to please and 39. She hired him for her daughter's Halloween party and now has urgent invitations from four syndicated talk shows. She also faces up to three years in jail.

Carye McGrath fought back tears when she appeared in court in Pleasanton on Tuesday to be charged with exposing minors to lewd entertainment. Steven Schmitt was more relaxed, despite facing four counts of sexual contact with underage girls. Both pleaded not guilty.

Mr Schmitt undressed to music in front of up to 50 girls aged 14 and 15 in Mrs McGrath's living room, according to police. Despite her plea that there should be "no licking, touching or crowding



Carye McGrath, left, said there should be no "licking, touching or crowding" of Steven Schmitt, the stripper

him", witnesses said, some girls stuffed dollar bills into his thong and one paid \$20 (£12) to perform oral sex on him.

Mr Schmitt said through his lawyer that he had been assured the girls were all over 18. Mrs McGrath said through hers that the party was the girls' idea and that their accounts to police and other parents of fondling and fellatio

were "all lies". After interviewing 40 guests, police concluded that Mrs McGrath paid for the stripper and had sent the girls out "trick-or-treating" for condoms before he arrived.

Pleasanton police have been bombarded with requests for details by the media. "I can see it's got some juicy elements," a spokesman said. "Suburbia, sex, even a little 'if Bill Clinton's doing it, why can't we?'"

# SEASONAL SAVINGS

**10% Discount**  
for over 60's on Tuesdays  
Offer subject to production of appropriate identification of name of purchaser e.g. last name or driving licence.

**DO IT ALL**  
PART OF THE FOCUS DO IT ALL GROUP

**Helpline**  
For details of your nearest store & FREE DIY help, advice and opening hours call  
**0800 436 436**  
7 DAYS A WEEK

## Prudential announce new interest rates for savers.

Prudential Banking plc announce new interest rates for its High Interest Deposit Account, Privilege Account and 60 Day Notice Account as indicated below. These changes will take effect from Friday 4th December 1998. In addition Prudential Banking plc is pleased to advise customers that the Interest Rate Guarantee has been extended to 31st December 1999. For more information phone 0800 000 222 or contact your Prudential representative.

High Interest Deposit Account and Privilege Account.

Amount	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.*
£2,500 +	4.90%	3.44%
£2,000 +	4.30%	3.44%
£1,500 +	4.00%	3.60%
£7,500 +	4.50%	3.00%
£10,000 +	4.70%	3.70%
£25,000 +	5.10%	4.00%
£50,000 +	5.40%	4.20%
£100,000 +	5.40%	4.20%

Privilege Account introductory bonus rates.

Amount	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.*
£1 +	6.25%	5.00%
£10,000 +	7.25%	5.60%

60 Day Notice Account (Minimum opening balance for new customers is £5,000)

Amount	Annual Rates (tax-free bonus)		Monthly Rates (tax-free bonus which is paid monthly)	
	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.*	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.*
£2,000 +	5.50%	4.20%	4.22%	3.37%
£5,000 +	6.30%	5.00%	5.22%	4.10%
£10,000 +	7.30%	5.80%	6.17%	4.64%

\*THE BONUS INCLUDES A LOYALTY BONUS OF 1.0% GROSS PA (LESS NET PA) CALCULATED DAILY AND PAID ANNUALLY ON THE ANNIVERSARY DATE. THIS IS PAID PROVIDED THE ACCOUNT IS STILL OPEN AND IN THE PRECEDING 12 MONTHS NO MORE THAN TWO WITHDRAWALS HAVE BEEN MADE AND THE BALANCE HAS NOT BEEN LESS THAN £2,000. IF THE BALANCE FALLS BELOW £2,000 INTEREST WILL BE PAID AT THE PRUDENTIAL HIGH INTEREST DEPOSIT ACCOUNT RATES. ASSUMING DEDUCTION OF LOWER RATE INCOME TAX AT 20% AND ROUNDED TO TWO DECIMAL PLACES. THESE RATES ARE ILLUSTRATIVE. INTEREST IS PAID ON THE MONTHLY ANNIVERSARY DATE OF OPENING THE ACCOUNT AND IS THEREFORE CALCULATED ON THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF DAYS BETWEEN PROMOTED MONTHLY INTEREST IS PAID EXCLUDING THE LOYALTY BONUS WHICH IS PAID ANNUALLY.

**PRUDENTIAL**

PRUDENTIAL BANKING PLC IS REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES. REGISTERED OFFICE: 142 HOLBORN BARS, LONDON EC1A 3JH. REGISTERED NUMBER 279982



# Battered bank bows to rate cut

A panic measure by the Bundesbank, or simply in line with euro plans? Roger Boyes in Bonn observes a German furore

THE bruised and battered Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, yesterday took itself out of the firing line of Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, with its cut in money market rates to 3 per cent.

The 0.3 per cent reduction — coordinated within Europe and led by Germany and France — is in preparation for the starting rate for the euro which comes into force on January 1. Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank chief, emphasised that the rate cut — three weeks earlier than expected — had nothing to do with the pressure from Herr Lafontaine to reduce borrowing costs.

Even so, the timing is useful. On Monday, employers, unions, bankers and the Government meet in Bonn to devise an alliance for jobs, a comprehensive programme to stimulate employment. The Bundesbank was expected to be the whipping boy of the Government and the unions.

Herr Lafontaine has insisted several times in public, and even more forcefully in private, that monetary policy should be in step with the Government's plans to stimulate

growth and employment. Although his main target was probably the European Central Bank, the Bundesbank was unusually rattled by the pressure.

Many of its directors are Social Democratic nominees, and although they traditionally set aside their political beliefs to concentrate on defending the mark against inflation, they have been signalling

**Mary Ann Sieghart** 24  
**Pressure on UK** 29  
**Commentary** 29  
**Harmonisation fears** 33

the need to change course. Herr Lafontaine and Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor — whose Social Democratic Party is slipping rapidly in the opinion polls — are under attack at home from an increasingly vociferous Eurosceptic lobby.

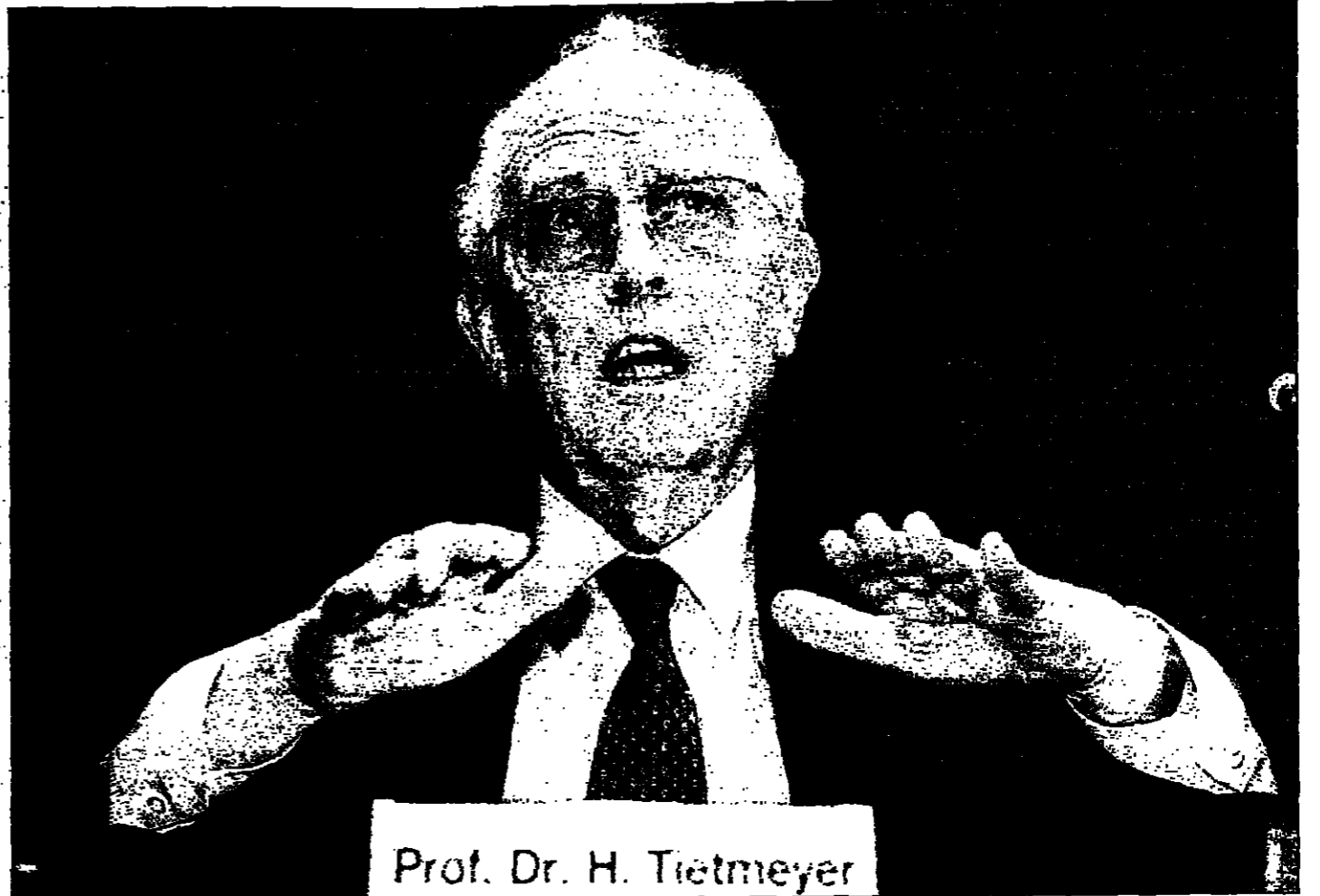
At a popular level, the tabloids have been protesting against suggestions of a European jet fuel tax — which would make holidays more expensive — and a possible

telecommunications tax. *Bild*, with a circulation of more than four million, yesterday had the headline: "Are they going crazy in Brussels?"

The report referred to a European Commission proposal that 10 per cent of the European budget could be saved by a special 40-ecu (€28) tax on every phone connection. Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister — the most powerful of the regional leaders — joined in the battle and accused Herr Schröder of performing a U-turn on European policy.

"When he was a regional Prime Minister, Schröder called for a decentralised Europe to bring the European Union closer to the people. Now he says that to be close to the citizens you have to have a full-blown European social union. He has come full circle."

In an interview with *Die Zeit*, he spoke out against the European constitution, the proposed European employment pact — both goals of the present Government — and emphasised that he wanted coordination rather than harmonisation of European economic policies.



Prof. Dr. H. Tietmeyer

Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, announcing the rate cut yesterday in line with other states joining the single currency

France and Germany, he said, were planning to soften the stability pact — supposed to guarantee fiscal discipline in Euroland — and pave the way for more borrowing. The German press, though in some

ways mirroring the Euroscepticism of the British, was bewildered by tabloid attacks on the Government. The *Berlin Tagesspiegel* declared: "We can rest easy. The British will fight against the sinister expansion

plans. A country brave enough to eat its own beef will certainly not take fright at megalomaniac Germans." It argued that Britain was in a strong position to resist Germany and France, adding: "Ministers

who have survived attacks in dark parks will certainly not let themselves be trampled on by the Germans and French in their pursuit of common agricultural, social or monetary policies."

## Euro-MPs put brakes on expenses gravy train

THE European Parliament voted yesterday to clean up the long-running scandal over its lavish expenses, but linked the reform to European Union approval for a common-MEPs salary. This is likely to be resisted by several member states.

The 626 MEPs also laid themselves open to further attack by demanding to be subject to a 22 per cent rate of income tax, the level that is applied to EU civil servants. The whole package must be approved by the Union's leaders before taking effect after the European elections next June.

British MEPs of all parties hailed the vote for a standard salary and to refund members only for expenses incurred as a breakthrough in the battle to erase the assembly's gravy train image. "I am delighted that the European Parliament has decided to stop the nonsense of using allowances to top up the salaries of the worst-paid MEPs," said Alan Donnelly, leader of the big Labour group in the parliament.

Previously, MEPs had resisted all attempts to stop flat-rate expenses, a practice that allowed MEPs to boost their salaries to above £100,000 a year. The system has been attacked this year by EU leaders and the Court of Auditors, the EU's financial watchdog.

The British were, however, unhappy about the call for the special low income tax. Edward McMillan-Scott, the leader of the Tory group, said: "British MEPs do not work for the European Union. Conservative MEPs should be paid for by the British people and taxed at the same rate as the British people."

At present, MEPs are paid at the same rate as MPs in their national parliaments. They also have generous allowances for travel, staff and office costs. These include £2,200 a month for office management, equipment and bills

Row brewing over MEP tax claim, reports

**Charles Bremner**  
**in Brussels**

and £6,000 a month for assistants. Italians, who are best paid, earn a basic of more than £70,000 a year, while Spanish members, the poorest, receive only about £28,000. Under the plan supported by the Parliament, a new salary will be set at the average of all current wages. Predictably, opposition to the single salary came from the highest-paid Italians and others who were being asked to vote themselves a pay cut.

At about £47,500 a year the new salary would bring only a small rise for Britain's MEPs, but the governments of Spain, Sweden, Finland and Denmark are expected to object to approving a hefty increase in their members' pay packets that will put them, in some cases, in a higher bracket than ministers in their home states.

Mr Donnelly said he hoped that EU leaders would be backing the new package in Vienna. "I will be urging Tony Blair to support the principle of the statute... I hope it can put an end to public concern about our pay and allowances," he said.

Keen to present an ultra-clean image in next year's elections, Labour's 60-strong Euro-squad have signed up to a pledge to have their books independently audited. At the same time, the Labour group has agreed to pool a proportion of staff and office allowances when Britain moves from local constituencies to a regional system of proportional representation next year.

## Discord as world churches gather

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE World Council of Churches (WCC), celebrating its 50th anniversary, began its eighth assembly here yesterday overshadowed by divisions among Orthodox churches and disagreements about homosexuality in religion.

About 960 delegates from 30 member churches representing up to 450 million Christians, and another 2,500 officials from scores of lobby groups, gathered under the banner of reconciliation.

Growing tensions between the restive Orthodox groups and the council's Protestant majority are a major dilemma facing the international ecumenical meeting, which is expected to address world political and economic problems and a series of theological questions.

There is increasing anxiety among the Orthodox churches about liberal trends among Protestants in Europe and North America.

"There are signs of uncertainty about the purpose and fellowship in the WCC and doubts about the future of the ecumenical movement as a whole," Konrad Raiser, the council's general secretary, said. "We seem to be at a crossroads." At a news conference the council came under attack from both pro- and anti-gay groups. The Russian and Greek Orthodox churches boycotted the opening ceremony.

Our Normal Price £1299.99  
Price after trade in £999.99

**TRADE IN £300**

Stoves Range 1000 gas range

- 1000mm wide
- Two large ovens and eight hotplate burners
- Available in a great range of colours - cream, blue, green, mahogany red and silver
- Also available in electric, LPG and dual fuel

Our Normal Price £1299.99  
Price after trade in £1299.99

**TRADE IN £500**

Bellini Farmhouse gas range

- 1100mm wide
- Two spacious ovens with separate grill
- Practical automatic cooling timer
- Also available in dual fuel, electric and LPG
- Wide choice of colours - blue, black, champagne, green and red

UNBEATABLE PRICES GUARANTEED!

Our Normal Price £1699.99  
Price after trade in £1199.99

**TRADE IN £500**

New World Millennium gas range

- 1010mm wide
- Handy electronic programmer, minute minder and digital clock
- Available in attractive green, blue or white
- Also available in LPG or electric - prices on request

Saeg Cookcentre gas range

- 1100mm wide
- Six burner hob with griddle and wok burner
- Two large main ovens
- Also available in dual fuel, electric and LPG
- Available in stylish champagne, blue or green

S/MEG COOKERS AVAILABLE IN SELECTED STORES

Our Normal Price £1999.99  
Price after trade in £1499.99

**TRADE IN £500**

Stoves Range 1100 gas range

- 1100mm wide
- Four hotplate burners, griddle and useful warming plate
- Double oven plus convenient storage drawer
- Great choice of black, blue, cream, green or mahogany red
- Also available in dual fuel

Our Normal Price £2299.99  
Price after trade in £1799.99

**TRADE IN £500**

Bellini Cookcentre gas range

- 1100mm wide
- Six burner hob with griddle and wok burner
- Two large main ovens
- Also available in dual fuel, electric and LPG
- Available in stylish champagne, blue or green

**OUR POLICY ON PRICE NEVER BETTERED NEVER BEATEN**

Find any of our products, new and on sale locally, at a lower cash price (within 7 days of purchase) and we'll gladly refund the difference.

CALL 0800 850 900 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE QUOTE TIM27

**British Gas Energy Centres**

BRITAIN'S NUMBER ONE FOR COOKING AND HEATING

**BUY NOW PAY IN THE YEAR 2000\* (APR 32%)**

ON SELECTED PRODUCTS

All offers valid 21 December 1998. All products subject to availability. All prices are supply only, delivery, assembly and installation are available for an additional charge. Prices apply in British Gas Energy Centres only. \*Buy Now Pay 2000 is available, subject to status, when you pay 10% deposit with remaining balance to pay until January 2000. You may then repay the loan in 12, 18, 24 or 36 monthly instalments when the finance will be charged at an APR of 32% from the date of purchase. Where applicable, available on request from British Gas Energy Centres, Dept. CO, PO Box 90, Wareham Street, Long Eaton, Notts NG10 2JD. Special credit example: Bellini Farmhouse gas range. Cash price £1299.99 (after £300 trade in). Deposit £120 and 24 monthly payments of £86.62 commencing January 2000. Total amount payable £2211.48. APR 32%. \*Not in store for details. Please remember not to credit a corporation with more than 10% of its or 5% of its turnover.

# Greens prove a barrier to saving Venice

The city's long-awaited lagoon barrage is in jeopardy because of 'environmental risks', writes Richard Owen

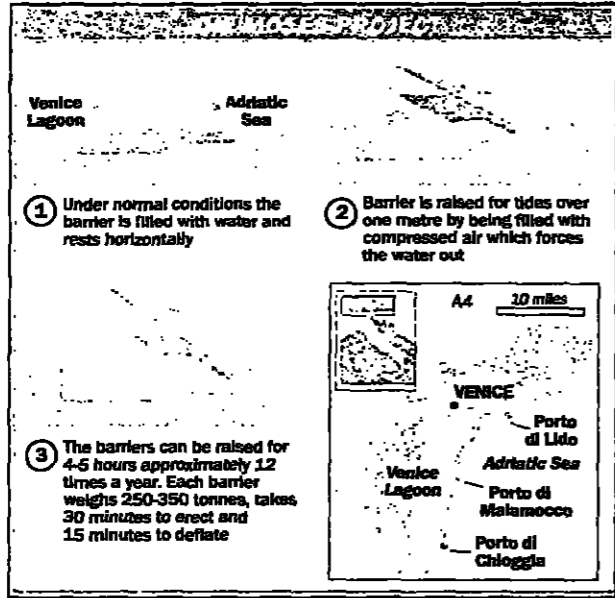
CAMPAIGNERS for a revolutionary floating dam to stop Venice sinking said yesterday they feared the Italian Government was about to rule that more research was needed on the project, despite 20 years of exhaustive investigation.

"If the Government opts for further research, this will spell death for the dam and death for Venice," said Professor Paolo Costa, until recently the Minister of Public Works, and a supporter of the plan for a floating sea barrier. "Italy will become a laughing stock."

A ruling by Edo Ronchi, the Environment Minister, was due in October. But the deadline passed with no decision on whether to go ahead with the dam, which would cost £1.5 billion. Reports in the Italian press yesterday suggested that Signor Ronchi, a leading member of the Green Party, would make his long-awaited statement early next week.

Signor Ronchi indicated that he was leaning towards procrastination, telling *La Repubblica* that the project — dubbed Moses from its Italian acronym — was "technically complex, with environmental implications at risk as well as vital economic interest."

As winter takes hold, with residents and visitors muffled up against near-freezing temperatures, the Venetian lagoon looks menacing, with cold grey water lapping ominously against the great palazzi which line the Grand Canal. Last week St Mark's Square was again under water as sirens sounded the alarm for high water.



"We need protection," said Stefano, a souvenir seller near the Doge's Palace. Duckboards stood ready for use as an elevated walkway around the square. "Many of us are leaving in despair," he said.

The population of Venice has dropped to below 70,000, half its 1960s level. According to some experts, the city will be completely submerged by the end of the next century. St



A policewoman directs pedestrians along temporary duckboards in St Mark's Square during one of the city's many floods this year

Mark's Square has been flooded 80 times this year. There are fears that the disastrous 1966 floods could be repeated.

Under the Moses scheme, which is designed and backed by a consortium of private firms called the Consorzio Venezia Nuova, floating barriers would be moored at the three entrances to the lagoon from the Adriatic. If the water rose by more than a metre, huge screens or shields lying flat on the surface would fill with compressed air to form a barrier

against the incoming tide. According to Professor Costa, who teaches regional economics at Venice University and is also a member of the city's council, the dam is in danger of being scrapped because of the "excessive influence" of the Greens.

He served in the centre-left Government of Romano Prodi, who was replaced as Prime Minister by Massimo D'Alema in October. "Edo Ronchi was Environment Minister under Prodi as well," he said.

"We are good friends and we co-operated well. But the Greens have been fighting the Venice flood barrier for years, and I fear they have invested so much in their campaign that they cannot back down. This is party politics and has nothing to do with efforts to save one of the world's most beautiful cities."

The Greens are not crucial to the Government of Romano Prodi, who was replaced as Prime Minister by Massimo D'Alema in October. "Edo Ronchi was Environment Minister under Prodi as well," he said.

Maurizio Calligaris, his right-hand man on lagoon defences, is a Green. Signor Calligaris argues that the barrier would have "unforeseen consequences for the ecological balance of the lagoon". The money should be spent on anti-pollution measures, canal dredging and raising the level of the land on which Venice is built, he says.

For Giovanni Mazzacurati, the engineer who heads the dam consortium, such talk is "simply wrong. The barrier

has been approved by the ministries of Public Works, Culture, Transport and Research," he said. "In July a committee of five independent international experts appointed by the Government gave Moses a green light."

Signor Cacciari remains ambivalent. "I have to strike a balance," he said recently. Asked how Venetians and tourists should react when the high water strikes, he replied laconically: "They should put on their Wellington boots."

## General 'planned mass executions'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN AMSTERDAM

A SENIOR Bosnian Serb general arrested by Nato troops on genocide charges guided the soldiers who massacred thousands of Muslims and dumped them in mass graves, his UN indictment disclosed yesterday.

General Radislav Krstic, seized by US members of the Nato peacekeeping force on Wednesday, was secretly indicted on six counts, including genocide, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and crimes against humanity.

He is the most senior Bosnian Serb military figure yet to be arrested for UN trial

on genocide and war crimes charges. He was held without incident in a section of northern Bosnia controlled by US troops.

General Krstic was expected to arrive yesterday at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal's high-security holding cell outside The Hague. Offences that were allegedly committed by his troops occurred after the rebel Serb takeover of the UN's "safe haven" of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia in July 1995, where thousands of Muslims were massacred.

According to his indictment, the forces under General Krstic and General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb wartime military chief, "either expelled or killed" most of the members of the Bosnian Muslim

population of the Srebrenica enclave, using automatic weapons, hand grenades and other weaponry.

General Krstic planned and assisted in the "preparation or execution of a planned and organised mass execution of thousands of captured Bosnian Muslim men" according to the indictment, which was issued in October. It was kept secret so that he would not be prompted to flee.

Soldiers under the command of General Krstic used heavy equipment to bury the victims in mass graves. When the international community learnt of the killings, he and his units dug up the bodies and transferred them to other graves, the indictment alleges.

## 70 killed by DIY heaters

Kiev: About 70 people trying to stay warm in bitterly cold Ukraine and Belarus, where temperatures have reached -13F (-25C), died last week in fires caused by home-made electrical heaters, officials said.

The crude appliances are made by winding bare electrical wire round a ceramic tube. When current flows through the wire, it glows hot and warms the tube, the fire officials said. (Reuters)

## Kosovo rebels die at border

Belgrade: Yugoslav border guards killed eight armed ethnic Albanian rebels yesterday, the Serbian Media Centre in Pristina, the Kosovo capital, said. It was the worst violation yet of the Kosovo ceasefire that was agreed in October under the threat of Nato airstrikes.

The incident came as Christopher Hill, US envoy for Kosovo, presented Serb leaders yesterday with a revised draft plan for the future of the province. Mr Hill said slow progress was being made towards a permanent peace, adding

that time was at a premium because of fears that fighting, now in a relative lull, could resume with the spring.

The eight rebels were killed near Prizren when nine ethnic Albanians were said to have opened fire on soldiers guarding the border with Albania.

The Serbian Media Centre said that no Yugoslav soldiers were injured. Kosovo Albanian rebels, who have been fighting for the independence of the Serbian province, have often used illegal border routes to obtain arms from Albania.

In Belgrade, Mr Hill said before meeting President Milutinovic of Serbia that the new draft reflected previous comments by rival Serb and ethnic Albanian officials on how to achieve a Kosovo settlement.

Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leadership wants independence from Serbia, but is willing to settle for autonomy as a first step. Mr Hill said that his draft plan did not specify whether Kosovo would become a third Yugoslav republic or would remain a Serbian province.

The most hunted books in the galaxy

Buy them now for Christmas

Available from all good bookshops, your DKFL advisor, or visit us at [www.dk.com](http://www.dk.com) or [mosespa.starwars.com](http://mosespa.starwars.com)

CULTURE THE SUNDAY TIMES

The Sunday Times Magazine

CULTURE Finding its feet: the beleaguered Royal Ballet has more than defuncting dancers to worry about

MAGAZINE Moon issue: how the sci-fi fantasy of lunar living will work in reality

STYLE Dinky chefs: the adonis cooking up a storm

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



# Woman MP sobs as Jospin shoots from lip



Jospin: he was booed for his lack of gallantry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

LIONEL JOSPIN, the French Prime Minister, administered such a blistering tongue-lashing to a woman MP that she fled from the French parliament in tears on Wednesday night, compounding the Socialist leader's reputation for unchivalrous behaviour towards the fairer sex.

The French National Assembly is famed for the quality and variety of its insults, but M Jospin's invective simply overwhelmed Christine Boutin, a conservative Paris deputy who became the first MP in recent French political history to burst into tears during a debate. M Jospin and Mme Boutin clashed over a Bill to grant legal rights to unmarried couples, including gays, and last month the woman MP filibustered the Bill for some five hours, saying that it would undermine traditional family values.

On Wednesday night, M Jospin, a steely-minded ac-



Christine Boutin, a French Opposition deputy, breaks down in tears during a verbal mauling in parliament by Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister

ademic with a tendency to shoot from the lip, singled her out for criticism, although not by name, referring to "a deputy on the sidelines of this issue and extremist in her ideas", and denouncing what he called her "obstinacy wrapped in obstructionism". M Jospin added that by entrusting the campaign against the Civil Solidarity Pacts (Pacs) to such an obscure and ideological MP, the Opposition had allowed de-

bate on the issue to become hopelessly bogged down. Cut to the quick, Mme Boutin first sniffled, then wept and finally sobbed into her hands, as fellow members of the Opposition booed the Prime Minister for his lack of gallantry. When M Jospin finished speaking, Mme Boutin rose, waving her arms and rushed at her tormentor, only to find her way barred by nine parliamentary ushers. She was then

led from the debating chamber by a pair of sympathetic Gaullist MPs. "M Jospin has shown how he treats women," Mme Boutin said afterwards. "He has labelled me excessive and marginal. We will let the French people be the judge of that."

M Jospin's highly charged clash with Mme Boutin is only the latest in a series of confrontations with women MPs, both inside and outside his Govern-

ment. Last month he scolded his Environment Minister, Dominique Voynet, when she backed a protest by illegal immigrants, and on Wednesday he went head to head with his Culture Minister, Catherine Trautmann, over her Bill to cut advertising on public television. A debate on the Bill was abruptly cancelled, to the embarrassment of the Government. Mme Trautmann maintained that the debate was put

# Abacha cronies accused of \$2bn fraud

By DAVID ORR

TWO former Cabinet ministers and a family member of the late Nigerian dictator, General Sani Abacha, have been accused of a \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) fraud.

The Nigerian military Government said the money had been taken from the Treasury under the pretence of repaying debts to Russia for the construction of a steel factory.

A Nigerian government official said that the three — none of whom was named — committed the fraud through debt payments for the Ajaokuta plant in northern Nigeria. He said the money would be recovered in "a matter of days". The factory, said to have cost about \$5 billion, was begun nearly two decades ago. It has never produced steel.

The announcement of the alleged fraud comes just weeks after Abacha's family was reported to have repaid the military regime more than \$750 million in illegally amassed state funds. The amount included \$625 million in dollar notes and another \$75 million in sterling.

Abacha died in June. In a country well known for its kleptocratic tendencies, the late dictator managed to achieve new levels of greed and corruption.

During his five years in power, the British-trained career soldier turned institutionalised corruption into a family business.

Abacha is believed to have looted between £2 billion and £4 billion, mainly from the oil sector.

Most of the assets are believed to have been kept in foreign bank accounts. The dictator personally controlled the oil business, which generates more than 90 per cent of Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings. The Government has put pressure on the Abacha family to return their loot by confiscating the passports of his widow Maryam, and of some of his children.

General Abdulsalam Abubakar, who took over from Abacha, is trying to convey the message that corruption will no longer be tolerated in Nigeria.

According to one Berlin-based organisation, Transparency International, Nigeria is the most corrupt country in the world.

# Books are new cargo for ships of the desert

FROM CHEGE MBITIRU IN BULLA IFTIN, KENYA

AS THREE camels grazed nearby, ten-year-old Sahara Mouti Abdil sat in a tent reading a book about Kenyan geography. "It is a good book," said the fourth-grader, wearing a blue veil and white trousers. "It has good stories from many places."

Sahara was one of two dozen ethnic Somali schoolchildren who had gathered under an acacia tree to wait for Kenya's only mobile camel library. Two camels delivered 200 books in

four wooden boxes. A third flatly refused to carry a load, and leisurely strode at the rear of the little convoy along winding paths through the bush of northern Kenya.

As soon as the tent was pitched in Bulla Iftin — Somali for "village that is becoming enlightened" — and the books displayed on wooden shelves, the children plopped down on thick grass mats that are also used to cushion the loads carried by the camels.

In 1996, Wydliffe Otuooh, the Kenya National Library Service's head librarian in Garissa district, was seeking an

efficient and inexpensive way to deliver books from the main library in the town of Garissa, about 240 miles east of Nairobi, to outlying villages and nomadic settlements.

The roads in the region are so bad that even four-wheel-drive vehicles get stuck in the sand. The inhabitants are spread thinly in clusters of dome-like thatched huts or are on the move in search of pasture for their goats, cattle and camels.

Camels, said Mr Otuooh, were the natural choice. "We also wanted to use something the community can identify

with," he said. A journalist in Garissa, Abdulwahab Ahmed, said that Somalis, who are predominantly Muslim, hold the camel in great regard.

"They say if you look at a camel from a certain angle, the curves spell Allah in Arabic," Mr Ahmed said.

The camel library is on the road five days a week, serving regions more than six miles outside Garissa. Each location is served once a fortnight. "The service is so popular we cannot meet the demand," Mr Otuooh said. "The days when people thought nomads don't want to read are long gone." (AP)



Camel loaded with books for Kenya's nomad children

NEWMAN  
SARANDON  
HACKMAN

Some people can buy their way out of anything. Except the past.

TWILIGHT

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS A CINEHAUS PRODUCTION PAUL NEWMAN SUSAN SARANDON GENE HACKMAN  
"TWILIGHT" STOCKARD CHANNING REESE WITHERSPORN GIANCARLO ESPOSITO "ELMER BERNSTEIN" JOSEPH & ANJULSI  
CAROL LITTLETON A.E. DAVID GROPPMAN PETER SUBOCINSKI MICHAEL HAUSMAN ROBERT BENTON & RICHARD RUSSO  
ARLENE DONOVAN AND SCOTT BRIDEN ROBERT BENTON

STARTS TODAY AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

# 28 die in Manila orphanage fire

Manila: At least 28 people were killed, including 23 children and babies, when fire swept through an orphanage and daycare centre here early yesterday (Abby Tan writes). "This is a tragedy," said Teresita Cruz-Sison, a director of a private foundation that manages the orphanage, as she

surveyed the wreckage littered with burnt Christmas decorations. Ms Cruz-Sison said the orphanage survived the Second World War and was used as a shelter during the Japanese occupation.

The fire wiped out preparations for the children's Christmas party. A partly burnt

Christmas tree and blackened plastic Santa Claus figure stood in the rubble.

Thirteen dead children were found huddled in a storeroom, where they apparently ran in an attempt to escape the blaze. Investigators said faulty electrical wiring was the probable cause of the fire.

# Mandela talks to Harare fugitive

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT Mandela of South Africa has held a meeting with the Rev Canaan Banana, the former President of Zimbabwe, who is on the run from a conviction for sodomy in his country.

The extraordinary meeting, which took place at Mr Mandela's official residence in Pretoria on Wednesday, is certain to put added strain on tense relations between the two countries and cause embarrassment to the South African police as well as to the Justice and Foreign Ministries.

Parks Mankahlana, Mr Mandela's official spokesman, said yesterday that the meeting was held at Banana's request and was private. He said Banana was not seeking asylum in South Africa and had indicated that he would not be staying in the country. It has been reported that he is trying to get to Chile or Brazil.

Banana, 62, a Methodist clergyman who was head of state from 1980 to 1987, fled to Botswana before his conviction in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, last Thursday on 11 charges of homosexual abuse. He is believed to have crossed into South Africa after his whereabouts in Botswana, where he had taken refuge in an Anglican church, became known.

Mr Mandela's spokesman said yesterday that no official request for Banana's extradition had been made by Zimbabwe and that he had not broken any laws in South Africa.

SEASONAL SAVINGS

JVC DVL9000  
JVC's latest ultra-compact digital camcorder with flip-out LCD screen  
✓ Progressive scan giving beautiful DV to disc  
✓ Direct PC connection via RS-232 cable  
✓ Big 4" LCD colour monitor  
✓ 100x digital zoom  
✓ 11.2 ultra-bright lens  
Was £1399.99  
£1299.99 SAVE £100

1/2 PRICE ACCESSORY KIT!  
Includes: ✓ JVC CB-V747J soft case ✓ JVC BMV-814 Lithium ion battery  
✓ 2x JVC DM-40 tapes  
Worth over £100 ... with DVL-9000 £49.99

Quantum VHS Tape 79p FREE Catalogue  
5-180VX 3-hour high grade tape. RRP £1.99  
1/2 PRICE Kodak Film £1.49  
35-mm ISO 200 35mm colour film. RRP £2.99  
Duracell AA Batteries £1.99  
4x AA Alkaline batteries. RRP £3.99

Tecno  
PHOTO • VIDEO • DIGITAL

Express Mail Order FREEPHONE 0800 0388899

# Israeli demands rejected as Arabs run riot

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

VIOLENCE broke out in Arab areas of Jerusalem and on the outskirts of the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday as the Palestinian Authority rejected an Israeli ultimatum on continuing the peace process.

The second day of Palestinian rioting, which by nightfall had left six Israeli civilians and two policemen wounded and at least 20 Arabs arrested, cast a deepening shadow over next week's planned three-day visit by President Clinton.

In the run-up to what is being described by Palestinian papers as "the prisoners' intifada", ten days of protests aimed at obtaining the release of 2,000 security prisoners, Palestinians threw stones at Israeli vehicles in at least three neighbourhoods of Jerusalem.

On the Mount of Olives, planned to be one of the centres of Christian millennium celebrations in the Holy Land, the police fired rubber bullets to disperse the protesters.

In Salah Eddin Street, the main and usually bustling commercial street in east Jerusalem, the area of the city annexed by Israel after the 1967 war, Israeli security men wearing checked Arab head-dresses drove up to one group of stone-throwers, leapt out of their disguised van and arrested four Palestinians after firing shots in the air.

Earlier, outside the Nabulus Gate, one entrance to the walled Old City, an Israeli bus was stoned and many of its windows smashed. Ten miles away, outside the Palestinian self-rule town of Ramallah, scores of Palestinians stoned Israeli vehicles and fought pitched battles with the security forces, using rubber bullets and teargas.

The latest crisis was sparked by Wednesday's televised attack on an Israeli car by a Palestinian mob near Ramallah. The Israeli Cabinet watched a video of the mob ambushing an Israeli soldier and civilian, who both escaped bleeding. It then suspended further troop withdrawals, due this month, until new conditions were met. The conditions have been rejected by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

As well as being rejected by the Palestinians, the conditions were also dismissed by the US, which appeared set on a collision with the Government of Benjamin Netanyahu.

A defiant Mr Netanyahu struggled off Washington's rejection of his demands. Tsahi Haneghi, the Justice Minister, told Army Radio that the Cabinet decision had been unanimous. He added: "We all said that we had to stop this quickly, because if we do it after we give the territory we will be shirking our responsibility."

Mr Netanyahu, explaining the sudden switch in policy which won immediate backing from hardliners within his coalition, said: "I cannot allow myself to see Israeli citizens being lynched, or about to be lynched, by a crazed mob that received incitement from Palestinian officials."

In language much tougher than that used at any time since the Wye peace accord was brokered by the US in late October, the Cabinet issued a communiqué saying that Israel would execute the next phase of the withdrawal, due on December 18 from another 5 per cent of the West Bank, if: 1. The Palestinian Authority explicitly clarified its commitment to the agreement reached at the Wye Plantation in Maryland, according to which neither prisoners with blood on their hands nor Hamas members would be released; 2. The Palestinian Authority explicitly announced both the abandonment of its intention unilaterally to declare a Palestinian state (on May 4 next year) and its commitment to the principle of continuing negotiations until the achievement of a permanent settlement; and 3. The Palestinian Authority immediately halted acts of incitement and violence as well as punishing those who were responsible.

Visit postponed: Derek Fatchett, the junior Foreign Office Minister, yesterday postponed a three-day trip to Israel and the Palestinian-controlled areas, citing timetable problems and the recent upsurge of violence in south Lebanon.



The radical Hugo Chávez has started a fashion for berets among his admirers

# Colonel swaps bullets for Venezuela ballots

David Adams in Caracas reports on the rebirth of a coup leader

ALTHOUGH the days of military dictators in Latin America are long gone, on the eve of a crucial presidential election here on Sunday many Venezuelans fear the ghosts of the past are returning to haunt one of the region's most stable democracies.

The spectre on whom the whole country has its eyes is Colonel Hugo Chávez, a charismatic left-winger and former coup leader, now retired from the army and recycled by his adoring fans as a kind of political pop star.

Now that he seeks power through the ballot box rather than the bullet — in part he credits Tony Blair's "Third Way" for the maturing of his political ideas — many are still not convinced. But if recent opinion polls are anything to go by (polling is an unreliable science in a country where many prefer to hide their political preferences) Señor Chávez should romp to victory on Sunday.

Since he was released from jail in 1995 after being held on charges stemming from his 1992 coup attempt, Señor

deeply divided the country. "Once a coup leader, always a coup leader," argue upper and middle-class Venezuelans who fear his radical left-wing views and authoritarian manners may undermine their privileged lifestyle.

But after 40 years of a two-party democracy which has been widely discredited for protecting a system of political cronyism and endemic corruption, voters are saying they have had enough. Señor Chávez has promised to overhaul the country's institutions, starting with the Congress and Supreme Court, as well as renegotiating a massive foreign debt.

Venezuelans also complain of rising inflation and unemployment, high interest rates (more than 30 per cent) and deteriorating social services.

"This country can't take it anymore," said William Sotillo, 35, an unemployed former hospital worker. "Chávez is not a dictator. He wants to make the country internationally competitive again. Venezuela is a paradise that has been destroyed by politicians."

Chavez has taken Venezuela by storm. His followers, even his family, call him *El Comandante* and he remains proud of his failed coup attempt which enjoyed wide public support.

His military background is so popular that many supporters have started a new fashion wave, sporting red berets modelled on the headgear of the elite paratroop regiment Señor Chávez once led. At campaign appearances Señor Chávez also dons his beret. "I am a soldier. A soldier of the people," he told a rally this week.

Señor Chávez, 43, is also an admirer of Fidel Castro and warmly embraced the Cuban Communist leader during a visit four years ago. His presence on the political scene has

# Pay Nothing until the Year 2000

On the UK's Best Christmas PC Deal!

All 9 items for just **£799** Plus VAT

**£938.83** inc VAT



- Guaranteed Christmas Delivery**  
Order now for guaranteed pre Christmas delivery, and pay nothing until the year 2000.
- Gift Exchange**  
We want you to be happy with your Time PC. That's why, if you change your mind within 14 days, you can exchange it for any other by just paying any difference and carriage.
- Open Late Every Day**  
Our stores are open 7 days a week and until 8pm on weekdays. We probably have a store, with easy parking, within 15 minutes drive from your home!

**NAVIGS**

FREE CITROEN

0800-0182099

**Savings to shout about. Call Grant Mitchell.**

In fact you can talk to anyone in Mitchell, USA for only 6p per minute. That's a massive 75% saving on the BT rate!

**0800 096 4665**

Country	Hook Home Service* Rate per minute	BT Rate Per Minute	Savings*
USA	6p	24p	75%
Australia	12p	49p	76%
France	11p	29p	61%
Germany	11p	67p	75%
Japan	22p	£1.15	81%
Chile	19p	49p	68%
New Zealand	19p	49p	68%
UK National	6p	8p	25%

**Hook Home Service**  
0800 096 4665

Agents and Distributors required for all areas. please call the sales department on: 0171 284 5003

This great 333M-II Christmas Family PC Package includes a high spec multimedia computer, top quality printer, scanner, speech recognition, internet pack, games pack, business suite and much more! Everything for just £799 + VAT.

Visit your local Time store to buy now, in time for Christmas, and Pay Nothing until the Year 2000 on our No Deposit, Interest Free Option!

<b>PLUS</b> Business Home Software	<b>PLUS</b> IBM Speech Pack	<b>PLUS</b> Games Pack	<b>PLUS</b> Games Software	<b>PLUS</b> Educational Software	<b>PLUS</b> Modern Internet Pack	<b>OPTION</b> Digital Camera
------------------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------

**TIME** we're on your side™

The award winning PC manufacturer that's the UK's largest PC retailer

**0% APR** Interest Free Credit  
Typical Finance Example: No deposit, In January 2000 either pay cash price of £1000 (APR 0%) or 36 months at £49.88 total price £1780.00 APR 26.9%. Finance is subject to status. Written details Time, Simonstone, BB12 7GT

**NO Deposit** Order now. No need to save  
**NO Payments** Until January 2000  
**NO Interest** If fully repaid by January 2000

**26.8% APR**

Direct order line Freephone: **0800 77 1107**  
Open: Monday-Friday 8.30am-6pm  
Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-5pm

120 stores nationwide  
For store details Freephone: **0800 316 2 317**

Time stores now open in... Exeter, Maidstone, Bradford, Oldham, Reading and Bedford

**Free Christmas Gift**  
Visit your local TIME store for your FREE Video "Choosing the Right PC" presented by Anna Walker in plain jargon-free English. Plus pick up our latest PC Buyer's Guide.

Sent no money now. Inc VAT price includes delivery charge which varies with destination. UK mainland (excluding Scottish Highlands) is £25 + VAT = £28.28. Prices, specifications and offers are subject to change, availability and to our terms & conditions of sale. Copies from Time Computer Systems Ltd, Granville House, Blackburn Rd, Simonstone, Burnley, Lancashire, BB12 7GT. For number 01282 77 07 01. Goods normally delivered within 5-7 days. All orders fulfilled within 28 days unless otherwise specified. Industry practice is to include monitor CRT size. Viewing area can be approx 1" less. Software pre-installed and supplied on CD with on-line help. TV-out requires SCART connector on TV and cable (at extra cost). Photography software packs shown for illustration only. Time and the Hourglass are registered trademarks. Time were on your side and FamilyPC are trademarks of Time Computer Systems Ltd. ESOE.

SIX OF THE BEST

Decorate the table with paper napkins



**CANDY HEART, £2.50**  
Red and silver hearts create lighthearted decoration for a festive tea party.  
Jerry's Home Store (0171-581 0909) 7/10

**ANGELS, £2.50**  
Angels framed in a baroque blue and gold border—enchanting.  
Bhs (0171-262 3288) 10/10



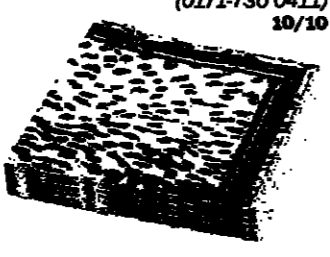
**CHECKED, £2.95**  
Navy, burgundy and gold checks have an opulent festive feel without being obvious.  
Liberty (0171-734 1234) 9/10

**CHRISTMAS HATS, £2.75**  
Cheery Santa hats are a jolly accessory for a Christmas party.  
Paperchase (0171-323 3707) 7/10



**LEOPARD, £2.99**  
Paper napkin with a racy edge—the leopard-print design is unusual and sophisticated.  
General Trading Company (0171-730 0411) 10/10

**APPLES, £2.95**  
Bright, fun and colourful—more summer barbecue than chilly nights, and a welcome relief from all things Christmas.  
Designer's Guild at Liberty (0171-734 1234) 8/10



COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

# No gift is deadlier than the male's

**W**ell, fancy that. Research published this week by the psychologist Dr David Lewis reveals that men don't like shopping. Not only do they not like it, it is also bad for their health. It makes their stress levels go shrieking up to those usually experienced by fighter pilots and riot police. I had thought that one of the points of being a chap was that their primitive masculine instincts drove them to roam about continually in search of exciting experiences with which to boost their adrenaline levels, but evidently I have

## CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

got this all wrong, and on no account should men be exposed to the insult to their system that shopping delivers. Whatever else Dr Lewis's research may prove, it does go some way towards explaining the great masculine present enigma. Men are, in general, useless at buying presents. Many of the chaps I have known over the years—nice boys, all of them; kind to their mothers and their children—commit present crimes so frightful that you think they must be doing it on purpose. Nor does one ever detect any sign of remorse in men who get it wrong. On the contrary, they take a high moral tone as though presents, like sweeties were some kind of regrettable



"Many of the chaps I have known over the years commit present crimes so frightful that you think they must be doing it on purpose"

girlly vice. Once or twice I have even been the recipient of a finely argued lecture on the Tyranny of Gifts. Really, it is almost enough to make a girl take a vow of poverty and book a Christmas

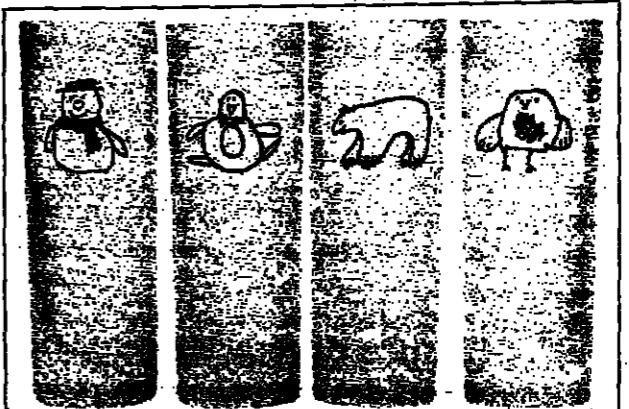
retreat with the most austere religious order she can find. But then Advent begins and there are little glittery objects in the shop windows, and despite yourself you begin again on the intricate game of match-

ing person to gift. This year, in an attempt to keep my stress levels down, I have set some rules, the most important of which is that I shall shop only in places that I know are calm and welcoming.

Smythson (0990 21311) is brilliant for masculine presents, with leather-bound game and cellar books, from £70. A handsome writing case is £225, and leather notebooks and watered-silk diaries make good stocking presents. For thank you letters, Elsa Peretti's sterling silver pen, £60, from Tiffany, and Hackett's sterling pencil sharpener, £59, might come in handy. I love my own Swiss army knife so much that I tend to buy them for everyone. (It is important to get one with a Phillips screwdriver blade. Nobody can ever find a Phillips screwdriver when they need one.) The same goes for Maglite torches (Asprey & Garrard has a stupendous sterling silver one for £225, but if you think that is excessive, economise with a flashlight from Hermès, £65).

Cufflinks, along with socks, are the last refuge of the desperate woman, so if you buy them, they had better be good. Tiffany has jolly silver nut & bolt cufflinks for £90, and Kiki McDonough does exquisite enamel sporting scenes from £145 (0171-581 1777). N. Peal has glorious cashmere socks from £32.50, and Cordings, in Piccadilly, has splendid shooting socks from £20 a pair. Keen travellers might spare you a fond thought if you gave them John Lobb's leather travel slippers, £155 (0171-930 8089), or Lord Snowdon's all-in-one knife and fork, £95, from Links (0171-930 0400).

Most of my presents for girlfriends will come from Jo Malone, where a box of three scented candles is £45, or L'Occitane, whose soaps, scented with lavender, honey, jasmine or rose, and flower waters are available from their shops in Regent Street, High Street Kensington and the King's Road. As for my own wish list—what I most want is a pair of Hermès riding boots, £650. But I'd settle for a pashmina dressing gown from Paul Smith, £390; a pashmina scarf with crystal bead fringe from the Scotch House, £120; a cashmere camisole, £95, and tie-front cardigan, £225, from N. Peal, or Kiki McDonough's dear little gold and diamond star earrings, £475, and pendant £325. And if the thought of going out to buy them is just too stressful for someone to contemplate, I don't at all mind fetching them myself.



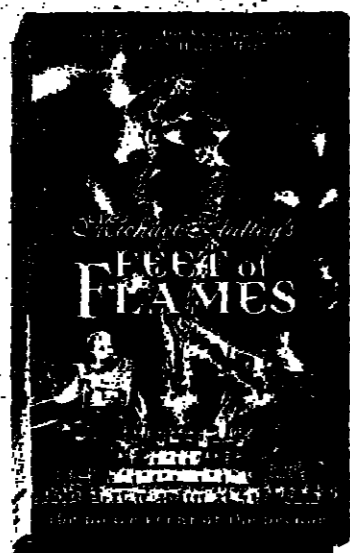
## Objects of desire

Exceedingly tall frosted glasses are illustrated with adorable drawings of a robin, snowman, polar bear and penguin. £8 for a set of four at, Maris & Spencer. (0171-935 4422)



If you are tempted to show off a successful baking endeavour, this gold bauble cake stand will do it with knobs on. Made from glass, with a trim of small gold-painted beads, it costs £22 at Bhs (0171-262 3288)

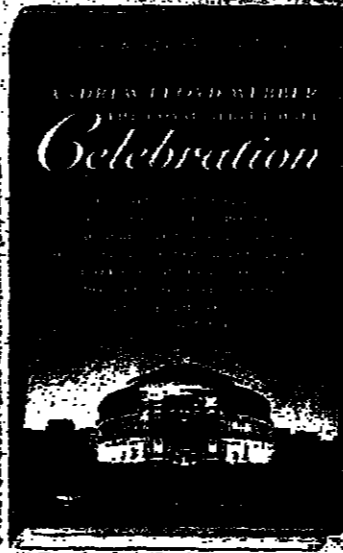
# Save £££s on our best Christmas gifts.



WAS £29.99 Only £9.99



RRP £14.99 Only £9.99



RRP £14.99 Only £9.99



WAS £13.99 Only £10.99



WAS £5.49 Only £2.99



WAS £13.99 Only £10.99

Offer must end this Sunday.

www.whsmith.co.uk

## Whatever they're into, get into WHSmith

\*SAVING IS AGAINST PREVIOUS PRICE WHICH WAS CHARGED FROM RELEASE ON 10TH NOVEMBER FOR 2 WEEKS. OFFER ENDS 6TH DECEMBER 1998. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY FROM PARTICIPATING WHSMITH HIGH STREET STORES. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS EXCEPTED. PRICES ARE COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS PRICES (RRP) AND WITH MANUFACTURERS' RECOMMENDED PRICES (RRP).

**HOLLAND & HOLLAND**  
Contemporary British Classics

31-33 BLOOMSBURY STREET, LONDON WC1E 2DF  
171-172 BLOOMSBURY STREET, LONDON WC1E 2DF  
FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 0171-489 4411

LONDON • PARIS • NEW YORK • BEVERLY HILLS

# So much to choose from, so little point

Don't you occasionally wish there were fewer choices you had to make every time you go shopping, or to a restaurant? Or (b) do you appreciate the variety that a wide choice offers; or (c) would you prefer still greater choice; or (d) other (please specify using a separate sheet of paper, lined or unlined, A4 or A3, white/blue/parchment/pink)?

Choose between the following examples of excess choice.

Example 1: Wine shops are stacked to the ceiling with bottles. But ask one of the assistants to suggest a good red, and they always direct you to just one, maybe two bottles. Whites? Ditto. In other words, of the 3,000 different brands they stock, they

your hair still parted where the hairdresser thinks it should be parted, or whether to brush it back into your usual style before making your exit (an eventuality which the hairdresser has guarded against by spraying your hair with a product that gives it a natural, healthy glow while still — thank God! — keeping it impenetrable to small-arms fire).

But the last time I was in the barber's chair, he handed me the catalogue of an American cosmetics company whose products he would now be selling. It listed several dozen different cleansers, scrubs, toners, moisturisers, masques, eye-area creams, leg-grooming formulations, hair conditioners, styling aids, and sunscreens. I bought a small tub of shaving cream.

For a woman, the choice is so wide that picking just one product becomes like gambling at roulette. How can you make a rational choice? This is why those ladies who staff the cosmetics counters in department stores are caked in make-up — who has just been sniggered at in the off-limits for buying one of the 2,988 superfluous wines — visit the counter and say: "If this moisturiser/foundation/toner/lip gloss is so great, how come you didn't choose it from the range?"

So the salesgirls dab on a bit of everything, so that they can reply: "Actually, I do! That's why my eyes are so recessed they look like a couple of cherries dropped into a bowl of custard." The outer two inches of these women's faces are just built-up layers of every product they sell.

Example 2: The only possible explanation for the length of Chinese menus is that restaurants must earn Air Miles for the number of dishes they can rustle up. This is why the tiniest café in Chinatown has 347 items on the menu — even though, if you ever visit China, the choice of food is so miserable that after three days you'd eat in a restaurant again only if it was part of a ransom demand made by terrorists who had taken one of your relatives hostage (I don't mean to sound selfless, so I should add that it would have to be a very close relative).

Chinese restaurants should try having only one or two dishes on the menu, in the manner of specialist Western fast-food restaurants. Some Western restaurants have struck a culinary compromise whereby they list several meals on the menu, but make sure that every dish they serve — and they're happy to be judged on this matter by the highest gastronomic authority in the land — tastes exactly the same.

So the big decision is what to drink with it. If you're looking for something around the £10 mark, I'd recommend the Mixed Berries Herbal Toner.



**MAN ON THE SIDE**

JOE JOSEPH

are regularly recommending maybe a dozen at most. So why do they bother stocking all the others?

You'll always assume that a winemaker's basic training consists of learning to distinguish chardonnay from sauvignon blanc (literally "white spirit") and mastering a few key viticultural phrases such as "this has cedar on the nose, and gooseberry on the carob". But it actually involves mastering far more complex wine terminology, such as "around the £5 mark" and "if you want to pay a little more..."

To stave off boredom, sales staff in wine shops amuse themselves by watching out for customers who choose their own bottle from the shelves. ("Look! Somebody's about to buy one of the 2,988 types of wine, that we never recommend, on account of the fact that they taste like horse spittle".)

Example 2: Usually the biggest choice you have to make when getting your hair cut is whether to leave the salon with



Juliet Stevenson thought it highly unlikely that they would cast her as Annie — "the class thing, maybe. But I love making that leap, all I want to do is leaps"

# 'Hooray, no Hollywood'

Juliet Stevenson on her latest role, motherhood and why she won't marry. Interview by Valerie Grove

Laurie Lee's mother dominates this enchanting book," wrote one critic of *Cider With Rosie* in 1959. Muddled, chaotic, warm, maternal and loving, Annie Lee has been played in countless stage versions of *Cider*. But nobody has got as close to Annie as Juliet Stevenson, who plays her in the new television film — a Christmas plum to be screened by ITV on December 27.

Shortly before Laurie Lee died last year, the producer Adrian Bate talked with him about the film and Lee said he hoped for more a "multi-faceted" picture of his mother, linchpin of his Gloucestershire village childhood. Bate commissioned a screenplay from John Mortimer, Laurie's friend, and Lee's widow, Kathy, produced boxes of letters from Annie to Laurie for Mortimer and Juliet Stevenson to read.

"I already had a powerful idea of Annie from the book, which I'd loved at 16," she says, "but the letters enraptured me. I don't want to patronise her, but Annie was completely self-made. She left school to go into service at 12 — her teacher berated her father for letting her leave — yet her handwriting was beautiful, her vocabulary and grammar very literary, her thoughts full of sensitivity and generosity. They're so idiosyncratic — written on tiny scraps of paper, curling round the edge of the paper and back up the middle, fragmented thoughts, telling Laurie news of the village, or about a nest she found, or the colour of the leaves.

"You can almost hear her shrieking and struggling with drudgery and disorder and making ends meet — longing, as she did, to be dressed in silk and living a life of genteel ease. Laurie wrote about her so clear-sightedly. He obviously adored her, but she also drove him mad. He doesn't clean her up at all and she still comes shining through."

Annie married Reg Lee in 1910 after answering an ad saying "Widower (4 children) seeks housekeeper"; they quickly had four more children. Reg went off to the Army Pay Corps — and never came back to live with his family again. He sent Annie £1 every week. "Herewith the usual — yours Reg." And yet she seemed to feel no recrimination.

Juliet says: "She had forgotten the darkness in *Cider With Rosie*, his tales of suicide, rape and murder, and the story of the old couple taken to the workhouse. 'I've never wanted to romanticise rural life,' Laurie said. 'I was poor; everybody was poor. It wasn't all fields of poppies and blue skies. A lot of it was lashing rain; men dressed in bits of soaking sack, and children dying of ordinary diseases like whooping cough.'"

Juliet thought it highly unlikely that they would cast her as Annie — "the class thing, maybe" (she was a brigadier's daughter who fetched

up at Hurst Lodge two years ahead of Fergie). "But I love making that leap, all I want to do is leaps you don't want to play around with the territory of your own life."

During the filming, she rented a farmhouse near Slad and visited the Lees' old cottage, having tea by the fire on a winter's day. "Their cottage has hardly changed. And so tiny! It was mindblowing to think of eight children living there." The art director built a replica in a studio outside Cheltenham. "It was crucial to get it right because that kitchen is the heart of the book, an expression of Annie's spirit — full of odd bits of china, flowers and piles of old newspapers. When I saw the set I said: 'Must have more newspapers. Times twenty.'"

Stevenson has been watching her since *Truly Madly Deeply*. Her intelligent, oddly beautiful, mobile face — sharp-eyed and mercurial — adapts itself to heroines both classical (she was a peerless Nora in *A Doll's House*) and contemporary (quite authentic as the wronged Tory wife in *The Politician's Wife*). She does intensive homework. When she was in *Yerma* by Lorca "I got on a plane to Malaga, hired a car, drove up into the Sierra Nevada and stayed in a tiny village to watch people at work. I'd never

been to Spain before and completely fell in love with it, went three times in six months."

Before playing a Chilean torture victim in *Death and the Maiden* she went to the Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture. She now awaits Jack Straw's decision on Pinochet with a passionate partisan interest, having stood with the mothers of the disappeared who gathered, carrying candles and pictures of their loved ones, in Leicester Square.

Being a mother herself (daughter Rosalind is now four) gave her "emotional access" to the role of Annie. All children are hostages to fortune and Juliet has discovered the vulnerability parenthood brings. "Remember what Laurie wrote in *Two Women* about all love having the snakebite of farewell in it? It happens the moment your children are born."

"The scene when Annie suddenly goes crazy at the thought of her daughters getting married, to me smells of panic. She wanted all of them to be always there. She would write 'Oh Laurie, I wish you were a little boy again and back with me.'"

For Juliet, motherhood means being relieved when Hollywood rings to say the movie is postponed, as happened recently: "I said 'Oh dear' but felt 'Hooray'. I didn't want to leave England, or yank

Rosalind out of school." She haies Hollywood anyway; prefers the civilised city of Vancouver ("I love Canadians. I feel so freed up, there's genuine social democracy at work") where her partner Hugh Brody, anthropologist and film-maker, expert on the Inuit of Northern Canada, has a base.

At their North London house she has a living-out nanny and a weekly cleaner to "keep chaos at bay". Hugh, just back from the Kalahari, remarks how nice it would be to have more help, but Juliet waxes puritanical: "I do genuinely think it's a good idea to do a lot of it yourself. Because if you live a life which is serviced for you, it fundamentally upsets some sort of balance. I feel that people who don't do any of the tedious things, don't clean up for themselves, don't drive themselves, don't take their own kids to school — I think their relationship with being alive lacks ballast."

What evaporates her most is to be asked why she does not marry. "I hardly know anyone who's married!" she shrieks. "If we're together we're together, and that's only a matter for us and our collective children" (Brody has two sons); then she thought of her father, who died not long ago, and added: "My dad wanted so much to walk me in the aisle in a white dress... and I'm sorry I didn't give him that."

"But when I hear the words of the marriage vows I just don't think I could say them. How can you know? It runs in the face of what life is about."

## leisure snuobonus

Let Posthouse treat you this winter

3 nights for the price of 2

Region	Posthouse	Price
London - Bloomsbury	£150	
London - Covent Garden	£110	
London - Fitzrovia	£124	
London - Hampstead	£104	
London - Heathrow	£138	
London - Kensington	£138	
London - Regent's Park	£152	
South of England		
Ashford	£98	
Basingstoke	£98	
Belfast	£104	
Bristol	£98	
Croydon	£98	
Donner	£98	
Farnham	£108	
Farnborough	£108	
Guildford	£98	
Harare	£98	
Hemel Hempstead	£98	
Midstone/Sevenoaks	£98	
Plymouth	£100	
Portsmouth	£98	
Reading	£98	
Rochester	£98	
South Merton	£98	
Southampton	£98	
Southampton/Eastleigh	£98	
Swindon	£70	
Taunton	£98	
Capital England		
Aylesbury	£98	
Birmingham	£78	
Birmingham Airport	£114	
Birmingham City	£98	
Coventry	£98	
Derby/Burton	£98	
Gloucester	£98	
High Wycombe	£98	
Leicester	£78	
Lincoln	£98	
Milton Keynes	£98	
Nottingham City	£98	
Nottingham/Derby	£98	
Rugby/Nottingham	£98	
Stoke-on-Trent	£98	
Walsley (The Boundary)	£98	
East of England		
Basildon	£78	
Brentwood	£108	
Canterbury	£98	
Colchester	£98	
Exeter	£98	
Exmouth	£98	
Grimsby	£98	
Harwich	£98	
Northwich	£78	
Peterborough	£98	
Stevenage	£98	
West of England		
Bolton (The Beaumont)	£94	
Brighton	£100	
Cardiff	£98	
Chester	£98	
Grimsby	£98	
Huddersfield	£98	
Hull	£94	
Hull Marina	£104	
Lancaster	£98	
Lancaster/Bradford	£104	
Lancaster/Leeds	£98	
Leeds (The Queen's)	£120	
Liverpool (The Gladstone)	£98	
Manchester	£98	
Manchester Airport	£100	
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£94	
Nottingham	£98	
Sheffield	£98	
Sheffield	£98	
Warrington/Liverpool	£98	
Warrington/Liverpool	£98	
Warrington/Liverpool	£98	
Warrington/Liverpool	£98	
Warrington/Liverpool	£98	
Warrington/Liverpool	£98	
Warrington/Liverpool	£98	
Warrington/Liverpool	£98	
Warrington/Liverpool	£98	
Warrington/Liverpool	£98	

**Posthouse**  
0345 40 40 40

**MONDAY**

**Fashion**  
The smart shopper's stress-buster: mail order

**ZANZIBAR**

The 'Spice Islands', a potent mix of history, legends and unique cultures.

5 nights hotel from £586

A variety of excursions taking in the City, Forest and Prison Island are available.

Zanzibar can be combined with Safaris and Beach stays in Kenya.

**Sinak HOLIDAYS**  
0181 423 3000

Wherever you travel, whoever you meet, be recognised in leather and lambskin from Proudfoots.

Jackets and coats that feel good, that look good. Briefcases and travel bags handcrafted in leather and carried with pride.

When you are looking for something different.

When you are looking for something special - discover Proudfoots.

**PROUDFOOT**  
MAIN RANGE CITE, £200 EXTENDING TO £200

Proudfoots - where you find the value of experience and design at all price levels. Proudfoots, an essential visit. Proudfoots - Natural value for all.

JACKETS AND COATS FOR MEN AND WOMEN  
LEATHER 0260 - 01750  
LAMBSKIN 1450 - 01750

**PROUDFOOTS 102 NEW BOND ST. LONDON**  
ALSO AT EDINBURGH, GLASGOW AND PERTH - OPEN SUNDAYS

**HARRODS WILL BE OPEN EVERY SUNDAY FROM NOW UNTIL CHRISTMAS.**

(FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T MAKE IT WE WILL ALSO BE OPEN FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY.)

From now until December 21st all our departments will be open on Sundays from 11AM to 5PM. So take advantage of the extra opening days to enjoy Harrods festive 'Christmas Creations', and to find absolutely everything on your Christmas list.

**Harrods**  
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Harrods Ltd., Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7XJ. Tel: 0171-730 1234.

# You can't have it both ways, Tony

Mary Ann Sieghart says Blair's stance on the euro is absurd

Tony Blair may once have been a young man in a hurry, but now he appreciates the wisdom of waiting. He kicks problems into the long grass in the hope that by the time the seasons have passed, so will the problems. But now the long grass is not just getting crowded on the European issue it has suddenly been shorn to the length of a putting green. Sitting on the velvet sward, for all to see, is the embarrassing issue of the single currency. And next to it are Britain's relations with Europe.

This transparency was not what the Prime Minister had in mind. He had hoped that he could keep the issue hidden for several years. Unfortunately, one man without a Millbank paper has gone wildly off-message. Oskar Lafontaine, the powerful German Finance Minister, said this week what he and many other Europeans believe: taxes should be harmonised and no country should have a veto on the process.

For Mr Blair, events are now spinning out of control and control is what the Government of all governments prides itself upon. Now France has joined forces with Germany, and Finland, which takes over the EU presidency next July, says it wants to end the veto on all but treaty changes.

The Prime Minister's usual response to a political embarrassment, to establish discipline, is not available. The people involved are beyond his control: indeed they seem mischievously determined to unsettle him. In fact, Britain's partners have done us a favour. They have revealed the absurdity of the Government's position. Until now, those of us like George Soros, who claimed that harmonisation of interest and exchange rates would lead inevitably to harmonisation of taxes, have been dismissed as paranoid or scare-mongering. Now our logic has been confirmed. Britons can have a debate about what EMU entails before they join, rather than finding out afterwards when it is too late.

Mr Blair's position is absurd because it is inconsistent. Were he a passionate federalist, he could make a perfectly honest case for Britain joining the single currency, and to exercise a veto but unable to steer the whole EU in a different direction. For the truth is that, by virtue of its history, geography and philosophy, Britain wants different things from Europe than do France or Germany. This is nothing to be ashamed of: it's just a fact. And however cosmopolitan the country becomes, it is unlikely to drop its attachment to low taxes or democratic accountability.

Mr Blair is a man who likes to please others. He wants to be liked by his European partners; he also needs to be liked at home. This week must surely have taught him that the two are incompatible. He will be asking Europe if he wants; but the British people will show their displeasure in return.

So the question has to be posed: does the Prime Minister secretly want tax harmonisation so that he can have a respectable excuse to raise taxes and have more money to spend? Is this a way of bringing socialism in through the back door? That was what first converted Labour to Eu-

rope in the 1980s: the idea that, even if Margaret Thatcher did not want stronger workers' rights, she might be forced to accept them by Brussels. Perhaps the higher-tax enthusiasts (of which there are many in the Labour Party) see another opportunity here.

For the Prime Minister is too clever not to have understood the longer-term implications of EMU. He must know that if he tiptoes too close to the integrationist quicksand, he will be sucked in. Yet, from the start, he has been obsessed with the importance of Britain being "engaged" and "positive" in EU negotiations. He is desperate for Britain to lead Europe. It can, but only in one direction — just as the pebble thrown up on the beach by a wave may look as if it is leading the sea.

Mr Blair and his Chancellor, Gordon Brown, still claim that they can turn back the sea. They are used to getting their own way and they think that, by a process of rational argument and example, they can create a "new" Europe, just as they have created a new Labour Party. But Mr Blair had many advantages domesti-

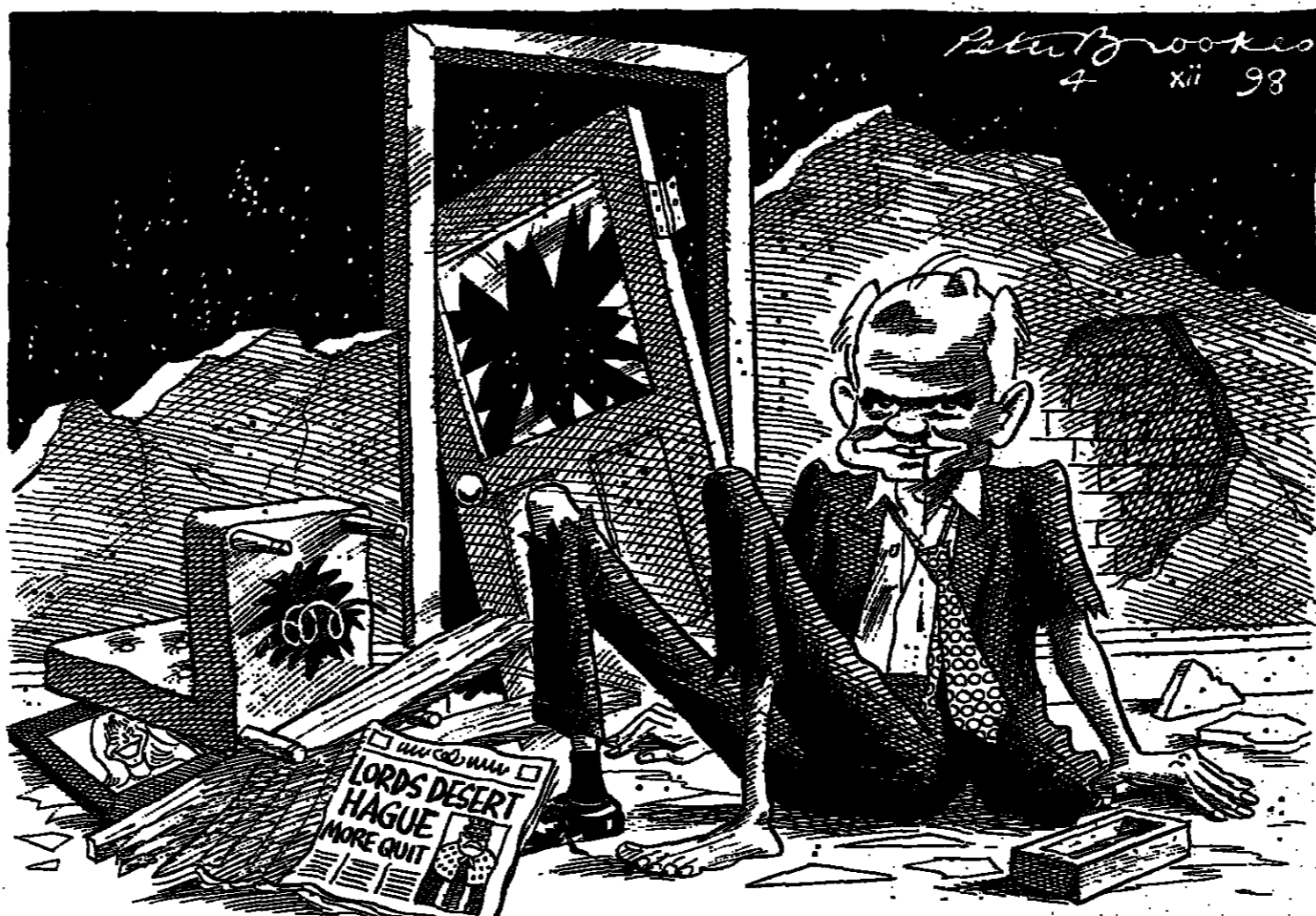
cally that he does not possess internationally. He is the elected and acknowledged leader of his party; and his members were hungry to win an election, so they were willing to agree his changes.

Britain has no such power in Europe. Other European countries do not seem to want to be led by Britain. Nor is there any reason why they should. Labour's mantra of low tax, labour market flexibility and welfare reform is right for Britain. It may even be right for Germany. But that is not what the Germans voted for — and they certainly do not want to take lectures from foreigners about how to run an economy which is richer than Britain's. It is no accident that the country closest to Britain's view — Spain — is run by conservatives, who do not need to learn a new enthusiasm for enterprise.

So Britain may have a few allies in Europe on issues such as tax harmonisation. But we are always going to be in a minority on these issues: able, perhaps, to exercise a veto but unable to steer the whole EU in a different direction.

For the truth is that, by virtue of its history, geography and philosophy, Britain wants different things from Europe than do France or Germany. This is nothing to be ashamed of: it's just a fact. And however cosmopolitan the country becomes, it is unlikely to drop its attachment to low taxes or democratic accountability.

Mr Blair is a man who likes to please others. He wants to be liked by his European partners; he also needs to be liked at home. This week must surely have taught him that the two are incompatible. He will be asking Europe if he wants; but the British people will show their displeasure in return.



"BUT I ALWAYS SAID I WAS A PEERLESS LEADER..."

## A tale of two Houses

Neither Tory leaders, nor their aristocrats, are playing the game

The one thing we expect of an aristocrat is that he die well. He serves King and country. He breeds heirs. He fights to the last ditch. But when he climbs the scaffold and the executioner pockets his sovereign, then "nothing in his life must become him like the leaving of it".

Yesterday the Conservative leader in the House of Lords, Viscount Cranborne, announced that he had been sacked for, as he put it, running "like an ill-trained spaniel". Had he been William Hague, he admitted, he would have sacked him too. More bizarre, he said that he considered resigning shortly after being sacked. This must be a Cecil tradition: even after losing their heads they claim the right to decide whether or not to die.

The demise of British hereditary rule is not being well done. The inherited right to legislate is doomed. The 750 hereditary peers know it. The Conservatives know it and the country has known it, at least since the last general election. The one principle on which the peers and the Tory leadership thought they agreed was that the transition to a new system be orderly, dignified and coherent. This would be the Glorious Revolution, not the Great Terror. As they departed the constitutional stage, the hereditaries would see that Parliament was strengthened not weakened by their going. "It is a far, far better thing we do, than we have ever done," was to be their Dickensian epitaph.

Instead Lord Cranborne is round in secret talks at Downing Street, plotting for 91 peers to leap from the tumbrel and escape into the crowd while Tony Blair turns his back. The peers get to keep their seats for the time being, perhaps even for ever, in return for acquiescing in the massacre of 90 per cent of their number, and for having 50 of "Tony's cronies" join them to balance the figures. Mr Blair even suggested that the 91 might become life peers. For Lord Cranborne this was a peach of a deal. He would win immortality, as Woody Allen suggested, by not dying.

There is uproar. We have talk of spaniels, horse-dealing, table bangings and the usual Fifth-Form nonsense at Westminster. We are told that William Hague is climbing up the wall in rage while Tony Blair climbs down in glee. While a handful of hereditaries attempt to save their

skins, Mr Blair's as yet un-ennobled friends are on the edge of their seats, aching, panting, yearning for the telephone to ring. They should invest in an ermine farm. Whatever may be said of their lordships' demise, dignified it is not. Al Capone's clean-up of the West Side mob was done with more decorum.

Readers of 19th-century history are amazed at how much parliamentary time went on such weighty matters as Catholic Emancipation, prayer book reform and the Maynooth grant. Readers of modern history will be equally baffled by the frenzied incidents that consume the tiny world of Parliament. Can anyone now recall what passing cataclysm ended the careers of Lord Howe of Aber-Abey? The British have a taste for bouts of glorious madness. "Here goes the last of the Brudenells," cried Lord Cardigan as he wheeled the Light Brigade into the valley of death. In much the same spirit did Lord Cranborne turn his brigade last week into Downing Street.

Anywhere but in SW1 the reform of the House of Lords would be a matter of supreme indifference. The incoming Government should have treated it as such. It could have secured Tory co-operation to a bipartisan royal commission with a short timetable, and told it to produce a new second chamber by the end of the Parliament. Controversy would have been neutered, as with Lord Jenkins of Hillhead on electoral reform. There was no serious risk of the Lords' backwoodsmen disrupting the Government's other business. Restocking this safari park was never a priority for modernising Britain.

Instead Mr Blair suffered some ideological hic. Demanding the instant abolition of the 750 hereditaries, he at first refused to promise any replacement beyond a chamber packed with his own nominees. This so enraged the peers, and the Tory leadership, that they indeed decided

to use the Lords to disrupt government business. The Government panicked. The Queen's Speech was shortened and Bills had to be dropped. Mr Blair duly climbed down. He offered Lord Cranborne the 10 per cent deal. The surviving hereditaries were hostages to his good faith in moving on to a properly reformed second chamber. They would also be hostages to the Tories' good behaviour. Mr Hague would not be able to use the Lords to impede government business. The Lords would be a government chamber, but a handful of hereditaries would keep their seats.

The deal was a classic oligarch's charter. With some 400 Tory peers eradicated, I cannot see what incentive there would be for any second stage of reform. Lord Cranborne had, in effect, agreed to inverse declination, sacrificing nine out of ten of his colleagues to leave the rest of the Lords alone. He would thus save off the horror of an elected (or ex officio) second chamber. Mr Hague was incensed at being left out of this esoteric loop. But he was out-maneuvred. He should have eaten humble pie and at least derided Mr Blair for abandoning his principles.

Instead, Mr Hague "did a Major". Desperate to seem tough, he merely seemed hamfisted. Lord Cranborne's sin of proceeding beyond his Shadow Cabinet remit, was serious though not capital. Mr Hague has lost a popular leader in the House of Lords. He came close to losing his entire Lords front bench. Over the barrel of his gun, he now appears to have conceded the gist of the Cranborne deal. Instead of mildly humiliating Mr Blair, he has humiliated himself. And serious reform of the House of Lords is, on my reckoning, dead.

British politics is currently in the hands of not one control freak but two. The syndrome is catching. In his recent study of post-capitalism, *The Corruption of Character*, the sociologist Richard Sennett delivers a

warning about the increasing monomania of the modern corporation. Firms expect individuals to display a single-minded loyalty to their mission, yet offer no balancing loyalty in return. Organisations speak of themselves as "we", as if they were communities, but they are really hierarchies. This autocratic tendency has spread far beyond the firm and permeated politics. Hence Margaret Thatcher's "Not one of us" and Tony Blair's "no message" apparatuses.

Political parties succeed by encompassing dissent, not excluding or silencing it. Indeed their power lies in being able to embrace and defuse conflict. Neither Mr Blair nor Mr Hague seem natural "fraks". Neither could be termed autocratic. Yet both have turned their parties into control-obsessed hierarchies, much like Sennett's corporations. They react to internal conflict by seeking fiendish mechanisms of discipline. They build computers at Millbank, vetting machines and blacklists. They cannot handle a Lord Cranborne or Ken Livingstone. Leadership is not by persuasion or consultation, but by control.

The Conservative Party used to be an extraordinarily relaxed coalition. The National Association was independent, the peers a law unto themselves, backbenchers and pressure groups went their way, muttering, sulking and scheming. Today's rows over Europe are nothing on those over the retreat from Empire in the 1950s and 1960s. Yet then the coalition was tolerant. On a loose rein, it achieved a remarkable post-war hold on power. Under the latest three Tory leaders, the coalition has gone brittle. Every crack becomes a fissure. The same will, I believe, apply to Labour.

The concept of a political party, essentially that of a club, has been succeeded by the concept of the firm. A firm must be tough-minded, goal-orientated and obedient. The subtle gradations of loyalty and support that underpin a political party are thus lost. You are either inside the tent or outside it. Colleagues are employees. Lord Cranborne breached his terms and conditions and for the good of the firm he had to go. An example had to be set to the shareholders. But I doubt if they see it that way. A party is not a firm and a leader is not a boss.

### Simon Jenkins

### Philip Howard



There's nowt so beastly or fowl as a politician

Lord Cranborne's description of himself as behaving "like an ill-trained spaniel" in his misdealings with his party leader shows all the cunning of his House. The self-deprecating aptness of the simile won Cranborne points over William Hague. In all the commentary on politics — the discussion of alternative voting systems, euro harmonisation and marginal tax rates — no method of analysis is as valuable as the comparison of politician to animal.

The noble Viscount's deployment of the simile was fitting for three reasons. The first reason: 99 per cent of the electorate understand even smelly dogs with bad breath better than they care for the details of parliamentary deals, which are only really of interest to ambitious nerds, workers and psephological anarchists.

A second aptness: spaniels are near contemporaries of the Cecils. For they started being bred at the time when the family rose to bureaucratic and political eminence. You can tell their date from one of the most ingenious emendations of Shakespeare. In *Antony and Cleopatra*, when Cleopatra panics and runs away from the Battle of Actium, Antony rants: "The hearts that pannelled me at heels! to whom I gave! Their wishes, do discandy, melt their sweets! On blossoming Caesar!" Nobody could interpret this word "pannelled", until 150 years later Hamner suggested, "spanielled me at heels". That is a vivid description of the effusive slobbering of spaniels and opportunists sucking up to their master of the moment.

And third: animal imagery for politicians has played well with the English for as many centuries as the Cecils have stalked Westminster, from Aescop and Chaucer to *Animal Farm* and *Waterloo Down*.

Shakespeare, in particular, was a country boy, and he was good at animals. Batty ideologues try to recruit Shakespeare's maneater to their banners. Thatcherites claim that wily fox Ulysses, Che Guevara's put-upon rebel primate Caliban. But their efforts are all codswallop. You can find whatever you set out to find in Shakespeare, as you can in the Bible. His only recurrent political theme is the observation that when a lawful ruler is deposed, nothing but trouble comes of it. And General Pinochet, blocked in his ghoulish Surrey lager of golfers, developers and stockbrokers, echoes the truth of Shakespeare's view after five centuries. Shakespeare would have compared Pinochet to some alien and potentially dangerous creature from the Americas. A portentous, perhaps.

And how would the Bard have seen Hague? He ought to be a Yorkshire terrier, but those ridiculous little yaps had mercifully not been bred in Tudor times. And Hague has no hair on which to tie a ribbon. So for his booming bay and lugubrious visage, he looks like a basset hound. Blair is not really a bird or animal of this earth. That pookish grin makes him one of Titania's fairies, but the Blair hair style and his urge to control everything make him Caesar.

Caesar was a favourite politician for Shakespeare. Characteristically, he was ambiguous about him: Was Caesar a fascist dictator who wanted to take over the world? Or the colossus who made the world safe for the birth of Christ? Well, a bit of both. And Shakespeare's most political play, *Julius Caesar*, is full of dreams, ghosts, soothsayers and animals, when the politics become boring. A portent of Caesar's assassination is a lion walking free beside the Capitol.

We are unlikely to meet a lion, even on the playing fields of Regent's Park, in the most high and palmy state of the Labour Government. But at 6.15am yesterday, on the main racetrack of Notting Hill Gate, I saw a big red dog fox look both ways before crossing on his way to Holland Park. There are more foxes in Notting Hill now than there are in Gloucestershire: better food in black bags outside the restaurants, and better company than those bumping human' bors. And in the park, half a dozen owls, those fatal belchers, were shrieking at each other. The wild animals are coming back to London, as they did for Mowgli in *Leaving in the Jungle*. If I were an ambitious politician, I would shake my head at these animal portents.



ALLY McBEAL (above) is coming to London. Calista Flockhart, who plays the neurotic TV-lawyer, is to perform in *The Vagina Monologues*. Ewe Enslers sketches of women, abused by men was a raging success in New York and will be brought to the Old Vic for Valentine's day. Susan Sarandon, Glenn Close and Kate Winslet will also star. Tickets? £50 a shot.

JASPER GERARD

## Pedigree chum

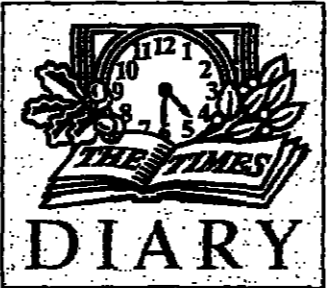
PETER MANDELSON has struck up a friendship with his fellow bachelor, the 7th Marquess of Cholmondeley. The Trade Secretary recently spent the weekend at the blade's weekend pad, Houghton Hall in Norfolk, where he enjoyed the delights of riding. It marks another brilliant advance by Mandelson to gain acceptance in old Britain, after winning the friendship of the Prince of Wales. But his modernising charms might be a little surprised: David Cholmondeley, who inherited his title and £118 million, is an arch exponent of flummery.

As Lord Great Chamberlain, he walks backwards in front of the Queen at the State Opening of Parliament and his title is one of the very few that would be preserved under the Cranborne compromise.

Delightful as Peter finds weekends in his Hartlepool constituency, Houghton offers many pleasures. The former seat of Horace Walpole, our first PM, it is home to one of the finest private art collections in the country.

The 38-year-old Marquess shares Mandelson's flamboyance — he delighted friends by squiring the American model Lisa B (with whom he is shown). While they enjoyed a bracing weekend on horse-back, there was no shooting.

THE chief scandal controller to Bill Clinton during the Lewinsky



many "units" their mates were worth. Sir Claus asked whether he meant millions. With a plying smile, Rothschild replied: "Claus, we're talking about rich people."

### Not Blooming

NO REST for Ossie Clark, the fashion designer immortalised by David Hockney (detail below) who met a grisly end at the hands of his lover. The Sixties socialite's diaries were sold to Bloomsbury by his children and published in October. But Albert and George Clark say that they have not been paid, and are suing Bloomsbury for more than £80,000. They claim that a



affair, Mike McCurry, on what Bill will be doing in 20 years: "Whatever Hillary wants."

### Pig's ear

TWO very different brokers, one honest, one a little more cunning, moved with stealth to broker the deal that broke Tory morale. First, the honest one: Lord Carrington. The former Foreign Secretary tried

to persuade William Hague of the benefits of Lord Cranborne's deal. Carrington knew what he was talking about. In the late Sixties, as Leader of the Opposition in the Lords, he urged Harold Wilson to introduce a similar scheme. He was defeated by Enoch Powell and Michael Foot.

And so to the Machiavelli of the deal. Last weekend I gather that Alastair Campbell was on the blower a lot to Lord Cranborne in Dorset. When not tending to his Tamworth pigs, Cranborne, like all true Cecils, was relishing a sly deal struck. I hear the old boy intends to take out his frustration on several hundred pheasant at Cranborne Manor today.

THE raconteur, Lord Runciman of Doxford, recounts an exchange between Sir Claus Moser and Lord Rothschild, who wondered how





## IN THE DITCH

The task of managing the Tories gets no easier

What started as an Elizabethan drama has turned into a paralysing Conservative crisis. Robert Cranborne, heir to the Marquess of Salisbury and a tradition of plotting which goes back to the Tudors, has become the figurehead of an unlikely rebellion. A series of Tory peers have resigned from William Hague's front bench in protest at what they perceive as high-handed treatment of the High Tory Viscount.

Although few of their names command much attention outside their lordships House, their departure nevertheless undermines the authority which Mr Hague has been trying to assert this week. At a time when events abroad have conspired to discredit the Government, and tax harmonisation presented itself as a weapon with which to chasten the Prime Minister, the Tories have succeeded only in parading a division in front of the public. If the Opposition is to recover its balance, and resume its proper role of scrutiny, then steps must quickly be taken to repair the breach between the Conservatives in the Commons and the Lords.

It was the Liberals who damned the House of Lords as "Mr Balfour's poodle", during the reign of King Edward VII. At that point the Upper House was indeed the willing accomplice of the Tory Opposition leader, Arthur Balfour, in his efforts to frustrate the Liberal Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith.

But even during the "Peers versus People" crisis of 1909-1911 fissures developed between the Tory leadership in the Commons and its troops in the Lords, with bitter words exchanged between the "hedgers" who favoured accommodation and the "ditchers" who chose die-hard opposition. Since then the divergence of interest between the Tory leadership in the Commons and its traditional allies in the Lords has grown. Now Mr Balfour's

poodle has taken a chunk out of Mr Hague's ankle.

There were signs before Wednesday's sacking of Lord Cranborne that a dangerous gulf had developed between the Tory leader in the Lords and his superior in the Commons. The differing approaches they took to the future of the European Elections Bill, with Mr Hague a ditcher and Lord Cranborne a hedger, was evidence of estrangement.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, exploited that emerging division by offering a proposal to Lord Cranborne which allowed him to act as preserver of the hereditary peerage, albeit in attenuated form, at the price of acquiescence in the first stage of Lords reform. Lord Cranborne might not have been so tempted by this offer, or so inclined to pursue it privately, if he had been more confident that Mr Hague had the best interests of the Upper House at heart.

Mr Hague's supporters may argue that their interest is the true Tory one, a wish to preserve the second chamber as an independent check on the Commons rather than preserve any individuals within it, but they clearly failed to convince Lord Cranborne. And they have also failed to convince many of the most distinguished members of the Upper House.

Mr Hague would be well advised to work closely with Lord Cranborne's successor, Lord Strathclyde, to repair relations between the party in the Commons and Lords by emphasising his respect for the special character of the Upper House. Mr Hague has made much, and successfully, of Mr Blair's control-freak tendencies. In so doing he has hit upon a weakness at the heart of Blairism. But his criticisms hit home with considerably less weight when he himself manages his own party in such a manner as to precipitate this week's resignations.

## SILK CUT

Plans for legal reform are long overdue

Amid the cacophony over the reform of the House of Lords, the Government published its plans to modernise another part of British life: the justice system. Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, had two aims: to increase access to justice, and secure better value for the spiralling cost of legal services. Although his plans still have some rough edges, Lord Irvine's clear-sighted White Paper promises progress towards achieving those worthy objectives.

The current system is neither competitive, affordable or effective. Past attempts to weaken the Bar's stranglehold on Britain's courts have borne little fruit. The annual bill for legal aid has more than doubled since the start of the decade, and now stands at £1.6 billion a year. Lawyers' fees account for 90 per cent of the bill. Higher spending has supported fewer cases: the number of civil legal aid cases fell by over 30 per cent in the last six years.

Lord Irvine has not hesitated in taking on these vested interests and demanding better value for money in return for public funding. Until recently, barristers ruled the roost. But by allowing all lawyers to appear in any court, the Bar's near monopoly will be destroyed. The antiquated method of paying lawyers for legal aid cases by the clock will also end: lawyers will enter into blocks of fixed contracts, which will specify costs in advance.

Lord Irvine should ignore the Bar's predictable moan that contracts will turn justice into "a sausage machine". Taxpayers cannot stomach some lawyers dragging out their cases so they are paid more. Other professionals, such as engineers and architects, manage to abide by contracts. The law should be no different. Yet the Lord Chancellor should heed warnings that reforms may cut the number of

solicitors' offices which can offer legal aid by a third, so limiting choice. More needs to be known about how contracts will be allocated. Safeguards are required to ensure firms are not excluded simply because they take on cases which are awkward for the Government.

This doubt should not hide Lord Irvine's skill at balancing the demands of giving more people greater access to justice and curbing the costs of legal aid. The Lord Chancellor is undoubtedly right that no case "necessarily has an automatic right to public funding because of its intrinsic merits". The indiscriminate awarding of legal aid has resulted in costs ballooning and support being given to unworthy cases. In future, to merit public funding, a case will be assessed against new criteria. Are there better ways of dealing with the case? Could the applicant fund the case in some other way? Do the merits of the case justify public funding? For instance, is there a wider public interest involved?

The introduction of "no win, no fee" acknowledges that the burden of risk in bringing a case to court should be shared between lawyer and client. If a lawyer considers the risk of a case too great, why should the taxpayer foot the bill? People need legal insurance against paying the costs of the other side if they lose. As this is still an embryonic market, high premiums are likely to deter deserving cases. Recognising this, the Government has proposed that people who win will be able to recover the lawyer's success — the extra charged for a win — from the loser's insurer. Whether this will be sufficient to spark the market's growth remains to be seen. Yet Lord Irvine's case for the essential reform of Britain's modern justice system is abundantly clear.

## TROUBLED WATERS

A sea change threatens the planet

Water is the single, essential requirement of all living organisms. The world's oceans are its largest and most vital resource. They cannot be plundered or polluted with impunity. And, in recognition of this, the United Nations declared 1998 to be the International Year of the Ocean. Aspects of the initiative have proved a success.

Marine sanctuaries have been set up in the North East Atlantic, off the coast of Ecuador and in the Mediterranean. United Nations negotiations on overfishing have progressed. Mining and oil drilling in the Antarctic have been banned. And European environment ministers, meeting in Portugal, became signatories to a legally binding treaty to keep the seas clean from Gibraltar to the North Pole. Proposals to phase out the discharge of dangerous chemicals, the scrapping of radioactive waste were discussed.

But do these measures amount to much more than a drop in the ocean? Sixteen of the world's 20 principal fishing nations have yet to ratify the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. Mega trawlers still scrape entire ecosystems into their gigantic maws. Oil exploration threatens protected reefs. Plastic debris, pesticides, fertiliser run-off and sewage sludge poison the waters.

International Year of the Ocean yesterday, the Duke of Edinburgh pinpointed a crucial area of concern when he expressed anxiety over the decline of the coral reef. Reefs are natural indicators of the health of the seas. Coral lives in symbiotic relationship with the algae which nourish it in return for protection and a vital supply of nitrogen and phosphorus. When stressed by acidifying temperature or salinity, by pollutants, turbidity or increased ultraviolet radiation, the coral expels its algae. And although it may subsequently recover, more often it dies. Animalcules bore tunnels in the limestone, the skeleton crumbles and the structure of one of the world's most diverse ecosystems unravels and collapses.

After the hottest year ever recorded, sea temperatures have risen up to 2.4 degrees higher than normal. Scientists have reported as much as 90 per cent of Indian Ocean reefs dead. Coral in the Red Sea, the Gulf and the Caribbean has also suffered severely. The implications of this go far further than tourism. The disappearance of the coral reef would amount to the first catastrophic global impact of climate change and mark a potentially disastrous shift in the balance of the planet's most vital ecosystem. Life began in the sea more than 3.5 billion years ago. It is risking too much to let it end there.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Hague and peers in trial of strength

From Mr Sean Fear

Sir, William Hague was absolutely right to fire Lord Cranborne. No party leader could tolerate one of his spokesmen seeking to negotiate a deal with his opponents behind his back.

The position put forward by the Conservatives in relation to reform of the House of Lords is an entirely reasonable one: namely, that hereditary peers should not lose their voting rights until we know what the Government intends to put in their place.

By contrast, the behaviour of Lord Cranborne has been deplorable. If hereditary peers are indeed prepared to sacrifice such an important principle so that a few of them can remain in the Lords for the next two years, they will surely have demonstrated their unfitness to play any part in politics.

Yours faithfully,  
SEAN FEAR,  
9 Aldenham Road,  
Radlett, Hertfordshire WD7 8AU.  
g.fear@btinternet.com  
December 3.

From Lord Windlesham

Sir, Is not the solution to the controversy over Lords reform for both Houses of Parliament to pass in this session a Bill ending the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords, but for the commencement of the Act to be delayed until the proposed royal commission has reported and legislation introduced to establish a fully reformed second chamber?

In this way the Government would have fulfilled its election manifesto commitment and the Opposition achieved its objective of no change before firm proposals for the second stage reforms are known.

Yours faithfully,  
WINDLESHAM,  
House of Lords,  
December 3.

From Professor Sir Michael Howard, FBA

Sir, If the Government seriously intends to abolish the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords without immediately replacing them by another system, it would do well, in the interim, to refrain from appointing any new life peers. Such a self-denying ordinance would do much to accelerate a decision about the new shape of the Upper House; but there is a yet more important argument in its favour.

There is at present no indication of how long the interim will be. The longer it lasts, the greater will be the opportunity to stuff the Upper House with placemen until the present Government enjoys there a majority, if not so numerous, then quite as effective as that at present held by the Tories.

Since I am sure that this is the last thing that the Government has in mind, it would no doubt welcome the opportunity to set such unworthy suspicions very firmly at rest.

Yours etc,  
MICHAEL HOWARD,  
The Old Farm,  
Eastbury, Hungerford RG17 7JN,  
December 1.

From Mrs V. Crews

Sir, I consider the action of Lord Cranborne in putting the interests of the House of Lords above his own party's perceived interest to be a statesmanlike act which is to be admired.

There are many politicians in both Houses, but few statesmen.

Yours etc,  
V. CREWS,  
1 Dellfield Close,  
Beckenham, Kent BR3 5UJ,  
December 3.

From Mr L. H. G. Wilson

Sir, Viscount Cranborne did the right thing the wrong way. He also accepted fierce chastisement. This is a huge and rare victory for morality in politics.

Faithfully,  
IAN WILSON,  
Evenville, Bere Ferrers,  
Yelverton, Devon PL20 7JY,  
December 3.

From Mr Tony Salter

Sir, Greater love hath no lord than that he sacrifice his leader to save his own seat in the House of Peers.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY SALTER,  
38 Bennett Park, SE3 9RB,  
December 3.

From Mr M. A. Murray-Pearce

Sir, Lord Cranborne is now in a position to be the ideal Mayor of London candidate.

Yours etc,  
M. A. MURRAY-PEARCE,  
130 Wigmore Street, W1H 0AT,  
December 3.

From Mr Martin Crutwell

Sir, Nobleless Oblige O. Democratic Despotism 1.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN CRUTWELL,  
Hamilton House,  
Scrayingham, York YO41 1JD.  
martin@camrecon.demon.co.uk  
December 3.

### Return of museums' historic 'loot'

From Mr E. K. Faridany

Sir, Your leading article of November 23 refers to the Abyssinian treasures which this country acquired during the 1868 Magdala campaign and to demands that the British Museum put them on public view as a condition of retaining them (see also letters, November 28). Certainly, if a "display or relinquish" rule were adopted it might eliminate some of the examples of highly important collections being permanently stored without ever, or very rarely, being put even partially on view — whether for space or more obscure reasons. But I believe the British Museum also needs to go further to eliminate the worst abuses.

You rightly refer to the early Buddhist artefacts removed by Sir Aurel Stein from South West China early in this century. Indeed there is no starker example of a nation's heirlooms being relegated to obscurity than the treatment meted out to these treasures, now held by the British Museum. This massive collection of thousands of illuminated scrolls and paintings is seminal to China's culture but much of it has never been on public view and remains effectively unknown, both here and in its homeland.

Public opinion, here and abroad, is increasingly sympathetic towards resolving the issue of ownership for the most blatantly controversial acquisitions (Stein gained the bulk of the collection for £130). For these cases the British Museum, doyen of the great museums of the world, could set radical standards for the millennium by devising new forms of mutual ownership with the appropriate foreign institutions.

Such action would strengthen, not weaken, the British Museum's claims to ownership of other less controversial material. Where better place to start than with the Stein and Abyssinian collections?

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD FARIDANY,  
Mount Pleasant Farm,  
Rushlake Green,  
Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 9QW,  
November 28.

From Dr Haddis Gebre-Meskel

Sir, As Professor Ullendorf indicates in his letter of November 28, most of the Magdala MSS were initially looted by Theodore from churches at Gondar, in an attempt to establish a national library at Magdala. The sudden swing of public opinion in

favour of the present Ethiopian Patriarch, His Holiness Dr Paulos, for the return of his Church's property is thus legitimate.

Ethiopians have been deprived of records of their glorious past for the last 130 years. Amongst the collections in Britain are rare MSS which deal with the country's religious, medical and national history. The absence from Ethiopia of this rich heritage has inevitably stunted the propagation of erudition in the cultural life of the people.

However, church MSS and relics in Ethiopia are still vulnerable to systematic looting by its own people, while the collections in Britain remain safe and are easily accessible to scholars at large. Any change in their present arrangement would have to be viewed in the light of a convincing political stability in Ethiopia, as well as genuine fondness by the church hierarchy for their antiquities.

Yours faithfully,  
HADDIS GEBRE-MESKEL,  
School of Oriental and African Studies,  
University of London,  
Russell Square, WC1H 0X9,  
November 28.

From Lord Napier of Magdala

Sir, Thank you for bringing to public notice the treasures which were looted from Magdala during the 1868 Abyssinian campaign led by my great-grandfather, General Sir Robert Napier, and which are now held in the British Museum and the V&A.

The justification for looting, and the moral and political niceties of returning looted treasures to their "owners", are difficult questions today. I have no comment on your report (November 21) or leader (November 23), except to say that in retrospect the word "rescued" may be more appropriate than the word "looted". Magdala lay in the traditional territory of the Galla tribe. There is little doubt that the Galla, who were Muslim, would have looted the fortress with scant regard for Christian manuscripts.

The purpose of the expedition was the release of the hostages, which was successfully achieved. Nevertheless, it presumably went with the expectation of some loot; why else take an archaeological?

Yours faithfully,  
ROB NAPIER,  
The Coach House, Kingsbury Street,  
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1HU.  
rob.napier@claru.net  
November 27.

### Dust to dust

From the Archdeacon of Norwich

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Robert Vincent (letter, December 1), feels that funeral services would be taken more sympathetically if conducted by someone closer in age to that of the deceased.

Whilst taking services for people of my own generation might be an appropriate and constant reminder of my own frailty, the thought that my later ministry was to become increasingly dominated by it would fill me with dread. It is a privilege to take a funeral service, but the joy of ministry is being with people in all the varied circumstances of their lives.

Perhaps I could suggest two ways that Mr Vincent might improve the services he has to attend. First, if he and his friends telephoned the priest taking the service to share their own appreciation of the deceased, then what was said on the day would embrace a wider perspective.

Secondly, by encouraging his friends to ensure that their funeral service is held in church. For the church is a place of life and celebration at the heart of the community, where Christians celebrate the Resurrection and where the departed are

held in continuing remembrance.

Yours faithfully,  
CLIFFORD J. OFFER,  
2b The Close, Norwich NR1 4DZ.

From Father Francis Wadsworth

Sir, I agree with Mr Vincent that the funeral service should be one of celebration. But we are celebrating the fact that God has chosen to call one of his children home to heaven. Is it therefore necessary to repeat all the details of the dear departed's life? The funeral rites of the Catholic Church (and no doubt of other Christian denominations) state that the homily or sermon should not be in the nature of a panegyric.

At my ordination the Bishop stated that I was being ordained to preach the Gospel. This is a far more onerous task than giving a life history of the person whose funeral rites I am celebrating. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a timeless message, which is needed more in our mainly Godless society than obituary honours.

Yours sincerely,  
FRANCIS WADSWORTH,  
St Clare's Friary,  
Victoria Avenue, Higher Blackley,  
Manchester M9 0RR,  
December 2.

### Manchester cotton

From Mr Joseph Fitton

Sir, Your report about the reopening of the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester (November 30) makes frequent reference to its location in "the old Corn Exchange".

As the last member to leave the trading floor of the Manchester Royal Exchange on its closure in 1968 I feel qualified to state categorically that we traded in cotton not corn.

An inscription round the base of the main dome of the building reads, as I remember, something like this: Who seek to gain eternal treasure Shall use no guile in weight or measure. Cotton absorbs water like anything. Need I say more?

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
JOSEPH FITTON,  
Great Howard House, Wardle Road,  
Rochdale, Lancashire OL12 9HH,  
December 1.

### Tatchell protest

From Mr David Brice

Sir, I am puzzled by the dilemma of the unlikely and hypothetical case of Peter Tatchell interrupting a Harold Pinter play (letters, November 30 and December 3).

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID BRICE,  
Boxwood, Station Hill,  
Bursledon, Southampton SO31 8AA,  
December 3.

### Modern buildings also merit care

From Mr Kenneth Powell

Sir, Angelica Goodden ("Monuments to gold and greed", November 30) points out, correctly, that amenity societies (like the Twentieth Century Society) "always face public indifference towards what is not old enough to have acquired prestige". Is she not displaying such indifference, not to say prejudice, when she attacks the listing of London's Centre Point, which she describes as a "monument to architectural folly and commercial greed"? For Ms Goodden, the course of architectural history — at least in so far as it produces buildings worthy of conservation — appears to have expired in the 1930s.

It may be worth recalling that in 1951 Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, no less, pronounced the Hoover factory "perhaps the most offensive of the modernistic atrocities along this road of bypass factories". When Pevsner, Bejeman and others first began campaigning for Victorian architecture in the 1950s, they were widely denounced as cranks. Both, it could be added, had been strong promoters of the Modern Movement in their time.

Ms Goodden's aim seems to be to drive a wedge between "conservationists" and promoters of significant new architecture. But it is now rare for significant historic buildings to be totally demolished and architects are increasingly grappling with the issue of adapting them to the needs of a changing world. Monitoring this process is now one of the key roles of amenity societies. History is not a finite quantity.

The conservation movement will doom itself to irrelevance — and not only in the eyes of new Labour — if it resorts to dogmatic preservationism and a blank hostility to the innovative and the original. This society, at least, is committed to a critical stance, which recognises the quality of the best of all periods and styles.

Yours sincerely,  
KENNETH POWELL,  
(Consultant Director),  
The Twentieth Century Society,  
77 Cowcross Street, EC1M 6EJ,  
November 30.

From Sir Hugh Casson, CH, and others

Sir, We are writing to express our deep concern at the proposal by the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to demolish a listed Art Deco building on whose site it wishes to construct a gallery for a promised benefaction of Islamic art. The building in question is a lecture hall forming part of a 1930s extension to the Taylor Institution (whose premises adjoin the Ashmolean) designed by the noted university and municipal architect T. Harold Hughes.

Our concern is prompted by a number of factors. The Ashmolean's scheme is simply the latest chapter in a history of territorial aggression which it has directed at the Taylorian, and the assumption underpinning it — that listed buildings should not stand in the way of important expansion — is inherently deplorable. The notion that larger institutions expecting a substantial endowment have the right to assault smaller ones is equally so, and the idea that desecrating listed architecture is unobjectionable appears particularly regrettable in the light of recent revelations by the Twentieth Century Society regarding the neglect and destruction of significant 1930s buildings in Britain.

The attitude to preservation shown by the university, which supports the Ashmolean's plans, too often seems to develop into the financial inducements to develop which it has been offered. Following another huge benefaction it is, for example, set to build a business school on the site of an unexcavated medieval abbey and a notable old railway station.

We take some comfort from the fact that the Royal Fine Art Commission has expressed significant reservations about the plans for the business school; but any hope that a similar caution may prevail in the case of the Ashmolean's proposals must be tempered by the university's official determination to foreclose all official debate on their propriety.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH CASSON,  
MARGARET CASSON,  
ANGELICA GOODDEN,  
BEVIS HILLIER,  
FIONA MACCARTHY,  
BRIAN SEWELL,  
6 Hereford Mansions,  
Hereford Road, W2 5BA,  
December 1.

### Knotty problem

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Shircliff (ret'd)

Sir, Inspired by your article on "editing" wardrobe (Fashion, November 30), I had a cull of ties, leaving me with 65 (slightly less than my years).

Allowing for formal occasions and the one to keep up my white flannels if ever again selected, I wear about 13 of them. Despite this my family keep presenting me with lovely ties.

How can I stop the flow? Or should I just buy another tie rack?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN SHIRCLIFF,  
Medical Centre,  
Rhine Area Support Unit, BFPO 40,  
December 2.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE December 3: The President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau Herzog this morning visited Westminster Abbey where the President laid a wreath at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior.

with, South East London. The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature International, this afternoon attended a Press Conference for WWF International Endangered Seas Campaign at Trinity House, City of London.

His Excellency afterwards visited the Palace of Westminster and was received by the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod (Air Vice-Marshal David Hawkins-Lest).

CLARENCE HOUSE December 3: Lieutenant Colonel Richard Vernon today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish), upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

ST JAMES'S PALACE December 3: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum, this morning held a meeting for the International Hotels Environment Initiative at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, this afternoon attended a Reception to launch The Prince's Trust - London Appeal at the Mansion House, City of London.

The Prince of Wales was entertained this evening at a Banquet given by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau Herzog at the German Residence, 22 Belgrave Square, London.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 3: The Princess Royal this morning visited 24 Air Mobile Brigade Combat Support Battalion at McMurdo Barracks, Colchester.

The Rt Hon William Hague MP (Leader of the Opposition) afterwards called upon The President.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Logistic Corps, this afternoon visited the 10 Transport Regiment, including 1 Squadron Royal Logistic Corps and 28 Transport Regiment Squadron, at Romsey, Hampshire.

Frau Herzog this morning visited the Royal Brompton and Harefield National Health Service Trust Hospital, Sydney Street, Chelsea, and afterwards visited the Royal Academy, Piccadilly.

THE PRINCESS PALACE December 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was entertained this evening at a Banquet given by The President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau Herzog at the German Ambassador's Residence, 22 Belgrave Square, London.

Frau Herzog this afternoon held a Fashion Show at the Grosvenor House Cafe, Park Lane, and subsequently attended a Concert in St Margaret's Church Westminster Abbey.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE December 3: Princess Alexandra, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Royal Lancers, was represented by Lieutenant General Sir Richard Swinburn at the Funeral of Mrs Alastair Dennis which was held in St Peter's Church, Stourhead, Dorset, this afternoon.

Today's royal engagements The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit the Surrey Space Centre, Surrey University, Guildford, at 11.15. The Duke of Kent will be present.

Memorial service Sir Geoffrey Bateman A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Geoffrey Bateman, surgeon, was held yesterday in the Chapel of St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1. The Rev Anne Harkey officiated. Miss Katrina Ramsay, granddaughter, read. It is by Rudyard Kipling and Remembered by Christina Rossetti. Mr Valentine Hammond, former Earl Ness & Throst Surgeon at St Thomas', and Natalie Tikdy of the Nightingale Fellowship and School of Nursing, gave addresses.

Christmas Party "Not Forgotten" Association The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the "Not Forgotten" Association, cut the Christmas cake at the annual Christmas party for disabled ex-service guests held yesterday in the State Apartments of St James's Palace.

Church news The Ven David Christopher Hawtin, Archdeacon of Newark, to be Suffragan Bishop of Ripon (Derby) in succession to the Right Rev Francis Henry Arthur Richmond who resigned on October 31.



These life-size bronze figures, part of a group of 22 called Conversation Piece by the Spanish artist Juan Munoz, have started people talking in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, where they are to stand on a site facing the North Sea.

School news

Framlingham College The Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk took today's opening by Sir Roger Tomkys, Master of Framlingham College, Cambridge, of a new academic centre at Framlingham College. The Ziegler Centre is named after a former pupil and benefactor of the College and provides 9 new classrooms and an enlarged library.

Wycombe Abbey School Wycombe Abbey has made the following awards, tenable from September 1999.

HMS Victory Admiral Sir John Briggsstocke, Second Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Home Command, and Lady Briggsstocke were the hosts at a dinner held last night in HMS Victory.

RN Engineers Dining Club Rear-Admiral J.A. Trewhy presided at a dinner of the Royal Naval Engineers Dining Club held last night at the Naval Club. Dr John Parker was the principal guest.

HAC Mess Club Major M.A. Holford, Captain Lord Weatherill and Colonel Vicount Slim were the speakers at a dinner of the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club held last night at Armoury House.

Dinners

Global Crossing Ltd Global Crossing Ltd, the Hellenes and Prince Michael of Kent were present at a dinner given last night at Claridge's by Mrs Gery Wintnick and Lord Lodwick M. Cook, KBE, co-chairman of Global Crossing Ltd. Senator George Mitchell was guest of honour.

Coningsby Club The Hon Alan Clark, MP, was the guest of honour at the Coningsby Club's Christmas dinner held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's Park, London.

World Jewish Relief Mr William Hague, Leader of HM Opposition, was the guest speaker at the annual fund-raising dinner of World Jewish Relief held on Wednesday night at Gibson Hall, Bishopsgate, to mark the 60th anniversary of the first Kindertransport arriving at Harwich.

Anniversaries BIRTHS: Thomas Carlyle, essayist and historian, 1795-1881. Dunelm, 1755: Samuel Butler, author of The Way of All Flesh. Langar Rectory, Nottinghamshire, 1835: Edith Cavell, nurse, Swardeston, Norfolk, 1865: Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, Prague, 1875: Francisco Franco, dictator of Spain 1939-75. El Ferrol, Galicia, 1892: Sir Herbert Read, poet and critic, Kirbymoss, Yorkshire, 1893.

Deaths SURMAN - Peter, On November 28th at 94, after a long illness, died peacefully at home. He was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London.

Deaths GORRY - Henry (1909-1998) passed away peacefully after a long illness bravely borne. He was a member of the Polish community and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Burial at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich on Monday 11th December 1998 at 11.30 am. Any enquiries, 0802 281582.

Deaths GOWEN - Edmund (Tony) at St. Michael's Hospital, Bournemouth on December 2nd, aged 73 years. He was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. Burial at St. Michael's Church, Bournemouth.

Deaths GOWEN - Edmund (Tony) at St. Michael's Hospital, Bournemouth on December 2nd, aged 73 years. He was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. Burial at St. Michael's Church, Bournemouth.

Deaths GOWEN - Edmund (Tony) at St. Michael's Hospital, Bournemouth on December 2nd, aged 73 years. He was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. Burial at St. Michael's Church, Bournemouth.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.C. Adam and Miss M. Devine The engagement is announced between Francis, elder son of Mr and Mrs Keith Adam, of Blair Adam, Kinross-shire, and Martha, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Devine, of Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.

Mr P.R.L. Amess and Miss R.C. Kingsley-Smith The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Dr and Mrs John Amess, of Charlton, Kent, and Rosamund, eldest daughter of the Rev and Mrs John Kingsley-Smith, of Christ Church, Chichester, Hampshire.

Mr P.D. Dereham and Dr E.J. Workman The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the late Mr David Dereham and of Mrs Dereham, of Wellow, Bath, and Beverly, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Workman, of Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Mr R.F.M. Hornoyd-Strickland and Mrs J.M. Batech-Brook The engagement is announced between Robert, second son of the late Lieutenant Commander Thomas Hornoyd-Strickland, DSC, RN, Count della Catena and of Mrs Hornoyd-Strickland, OBE, DL, of Stargate, Castle, Cambridge, and Mrs Jill Batech-Brook, daughter of Dr G. Robert Batech, of Rochester, New York, USA, and of Mrs Josephine Batech, of Denver, Colorado, USA.

Mr C. McIntyre and Miss Z. Chancelor The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher McIntyre, of Kampala, Uganda, and Truro, Cornwall, and Zara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Chancelor, of Great Gaddesden, Cambridgeshire.

Mr G.H. Miller and Miss S.M. Bystrak The engagement is announced between Graeme Howard, second son of Mr and Mrs John Miller, of Whitecraigs, Glasgow, and Susan Marie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Bystrak, of Rochester, New York, USA.

Mr Ronald Kerstnar, divisional managing director, Renold Engineering Products, and Mrs Susan Kerstnar, SIRA, and chairman, Electronic Business Association, announce the engagement between Simon, elder son of Mr F.C. von Oppenheim and the late Mrs Lyone von Oppenheim, and Alexandra, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Curtis Wald, of Des Moines, Iowa, to Karen, daughter of Dr and Mrs Russell Barton, of Rochester, New York.

Mr G.H. Miller and Miss S.M. Bystrak The engagement is announced between Graeme Howard, second son of Mr and Mrs John Miller, of Whitecraigs, Glasgow, and Susan Marie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Bystrak, of Rochester, New York, USA.

Mr Ronald Kerstnar, divisional managing director, Renold Engineering Products, and Mrs Susan Kerstnar, SIRA, and chairman, Electronic Business Association, announce the engagement between Simon, elder son of Mr F.C. von Oppenheim and the late Mrs Lyone von Oppenheim, and Alexandra, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Curtis Wald, of Des Moines, Iowa, to Karen, daughter of Dr and Mrs Russell Barton, of Rochester, New York.

Mr Ronald Kerstnar, divisional managing director, Renold Engineering Products, and Mrs Susan Kerstnar, SIRA, and chairman, Electronic Business Association, announce the engagement between Simon, elder son of Mr F.C. von Oppenheim and the late Mrs Lyone von Oppenheim, and Alexandra, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Curtis Wald, of Des Moines, Iowa, to Karen, daughter of Dr and Mrs Russell Barton, of Rochester, New York.

Mr Ronald Kerstnar, divisional managing director, Renold Engineering Products, and Mrs Susan Kerstnar, SIRA, and chairman, Electronic Business Association, announce the engagement between Simon, elder son of Mr F.C. von Oppenheim and the late Mrs Lyone von Oppenheim, and Alexandra, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Curtis Wald, of Des Moines, Iowa, to Karen, daughter of Dr and Mrs Russell Barton, of Rochester, New York.

Mr Ronald Kerstnar, divisional managing director, Renold Engineering Products, and Mrs Susan Kerstnar, SIRA, and chairman, Electronic Business Association, announce the engagement between Simon, elder son of Mr F.C. von Oppenheim and the late Mrs Lyone von Oppenheim, and Alexandra, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Curtis Wald, of Des Moines, Iowa, to Karen, daughter of Dr and Mrs Russell Barton, of Rochester, New York.

Mr Ronald Kerstnar, divisional managing director, Renold Engineering Products, and Mrs Susan Kerstnar, SIRA, and chairman, Electronic Business Association, announce the engagement between Simon, elder son of Mr F.C. von Oppenheim and the late Mrs Lyone von Oppenheim, and Alexandra, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Curtis Wald, of Des Moines, Iowa, to Karen, daughter of Dr and Mrs Russell Barton, of Rochester, New York.

Mr Ronald Kerstnar, divisional managing director, Renold Engineering Products, and Mrs Susan Kerstnar, SIRA, and chairman, Electronic Business Association, announce the engagement between Simon, elder son of Mr F.C. von Oppenheim and the late Mrs Lyone von Oppenheim, and Alexandra, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Curtis Wald, of Des Moines, Iowa, to Karen, daughter of Dr and Mrs Russell Barton, of Rochester, New York.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS CLOWES - On November 30th 1998, to Dot and Richard, a son, Connor. DONALDSON - On 30th November in Athens. Grace to James (son), Katy (daughter), and Thomas (son). EDWARDS - On November 27th at the Portland Hospital to Nathalie (nee Fytchoumis) de Billy and a son, Victor.

DEATHS SURMAN - Peter, On November 28th at 94, after a long illness, died peacefully at home. He was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London.

DEATHS GORRY - Henry (1909-1998) passed away peacefully after a long illness bravely borne. He was a member of the Polish community and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Burial at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich on Monday 11th December 1998 at 11.30 am. Any enquiries, 0802 281582.

DEATHS GOWEN - Edmund (Tony) at St. Michael's Hospital, Bournemouth on December 2nd, aged 73 years. He was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. Burial at St. Michael's Church, Bournemouth.

DEATHS GOWEN - Edmund (Tony) at St. Michael's Hospital, Bournemouth on December 2nd, aged 73 years. He was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. Burial at St. Michael's Church, Bournemouth.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

OBITUARIES

CHRISTOPHER DOW

Christopher Dow, FBA, economist and former director of the Bank of England, died on December 1 aged 82. He was born on February 25, 1916.



Christopher Dow was a well known and very highly respected economic adviser who worked at various times in the Treasury, the Bank of England, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and elsewhere; he also wrote a number of influential books and papers about economic policy.

Dow's personal style tended to be withdrawn and it was impossible not to see him, as he reached his middle years, as a lonely - if not rather remote - figure. So it was as if the sun had come out when he met, and in 1960, at the age of 44, married Clare Keegan. Their marriage was of the sort of which dreams are made.

The Dows' household was calm and elegant. Their hospitality was generous. They had four attractive and talented children. The sustained and loving way in which they shared one another's lives was inspiring.

Unlike most distinguished economists, Dow was not eaten up with his subject. He was a man of wide interests and had enough detachment to derive immense and varied pleasure from the existence which he had created with his wife and family.

Over a great part of his working life he was involved in discussions of national economic policies. His contributions to these discussions, in writing and in speech, were very effective and were highly valued. He remained basically Keynesian in his approach, but was never doctrinaire. Intelligence, thoughtfulness and thoroughness characterised all his work. He held moderate and well-balanced views but held these strongly and expounded them clearly.

When he died, his latest bulletin on the economic situation had just reached the desks of everyone seriously engaged in the subject and invitations were just going out for the launch of his recently completed book (upon which he had been working for the last seven years of his life).

This book, entitled Major Recessions, could hardly be more topical. It completes a series which began with his 1964 definitive work, The Management of the British Economy 1945-60, where one of his findings was that economic policy had amplified, rather than mitigated, fluctuations in the economy's rate of growth - plus ça change.

Dow's written work combined the academic with an innate wisdom and the benefits of a career in which he was often very close to the heart of policymaking. In the early 1970s his return to England from the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development brought him to the Bank of England, where he was an executive director from 1973 to 1981 (he then stayed on as adviser until 1984). In 1982 he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

His spell at the Bank coincided with a period of major strains on the economy - and upon the traditional "Keynesian consensus". Dow remained a loyal Keynesian but was sufficiently flexible to take on criticisms

and to adapt his approach. His integrity and the quality of his advice were greatly admired by Gordon Richardson (Governor, 1973-83), at a time when the new "monetarist" doctrines were very much in the ascendency. Whatever they privately thought of monetarism, and the newly-fashioned worship of the markets - these two men knew that these were factors that had to be taken into account.

Dow was that rare being, an economist who wrote in lapidary prose, and who could crystallise an argument, or an entire day's discussion, with one pithy comment. Sometimes, however, in the noble cause of building bridges between the Bank and the Treasury, he had to resort to a certain official obfuscation, and among junior officials in the Bank the word "Dovian" was coined to describe his deliberately more opaque utterances.

As recently as October he was writing, for the City bankers, Leopold Joseph: "I find it hard to see how forces at work can fail to produce a major recession in the US and the world as a whole, and at least something close to it in Europe and the UK." Characteristically, he added the cautious rider: "But I could be wrong."

He was a good and kind man, the modesty of whose character was combined with a great confidence in his own intellectual powers. He suffered fools not gladly, but with immense politeness. John Christopher Roderick Dow, who was educated at Bootham School, York, then at Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School before going to University College London, was a Roman Catholic convert, and a devout one. He was not attracted by the Church's dogma so much as by its attempts as an institution to capture the basic tenets of Christian values. He took great pains to help people down on their luck: he was visiting the sick until shortly before last Sunday, when he collapsed while attending Mass at Brompton Oratory.

There was a doctor in the church, and he was briefly resuscitated to die peacefully with his devoted family around him at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital two days later.

He is survived by his wife Clare, and their children James (also an economist), Francesca, Rachel and Biba.

JOHN WHEATLEY



John Wheatley, MC, wartime soldier, died on November 22 aged 77. He was born on March 7, 1921.

JOHN WHEATLEY was awarded the MC at the River Garigliano during the bitterly fought battles in Italy in the winter of 1943-44. As the Allies attempted, week after week, to breach the enemy's well prepared defensive position on the Gustav Line, Wheatley's unit, C Squadron of the 44th Reconnaissance Regiment, carried out numerous patrols. Aimed at gleaned vital information about the lie of the land and the strength of the defences, these often took him and his men behind enemy lines where they were frequently exposed to vigorous counter-attacks and came under heavy fire.

On the night of January 20-21, 1944, Wheatley's squadron, which was holding a position it had previously captured behind the Gustav Line, found themselves being furiously assaulted by the Germans. Wheatley and his men drove their attackers off and then themselves attacked, assaulting two Spandau gun emplacements and knocking them out. The Germans now counter-attacked in their turn, and Wheatley and the five men remaining available to him after he had returned to his own lines found themselves assailed by a battle patrol of forty seasoned Panzer Grenadiers.

Choosing attack as the best method of defence, Wheatley and his troops fell on their assailants with such dash and vigour that the German patrol recoiled before them, and after a few minutes of savage fighting at point-blank range the Germans fell back leaving many of their number dead on the battlefield. The inspirational leadership and fearlessness that Wheatley displayed in operations which stabilised the British position in that sector earned him the immediate

award of the Military Cross.

John Edward Clive Wheatley was brought up in Exeter and was educated there at the Leys School, Cambridge, from where he went straight into the Welch Regiment. After passing through an Officer Cadet Training Unit he was sent to the Western Desert in the aftermath of the Battle of Alamein and immediately volunteered for the Reconnaissance Regiment. For the rest of the North Africa campaign he operated extensively behind enemy lines.

During the fighting in Tunisia several of his men were blown up while attempting to cross an unmarked minefield in their armoured cars. His troop sergeant, who had been in one of the leading vehicles was taken prisoner by the Germans and watched what happened next from the enemy lines. Thinking that one of his men from the stricken vehicles was still alive, Wheatley tried to crawl across the minefield to rescue him.

In a chivalrous gesture the Germans fired repeatedly into the sand in front of him to prevent him from needlessly sacrificing his life in the attempt to succour a man they could clearly see was dead. Three days later the Germans surrendered to a British attack and Wheatley's troop sergeant, freed to return to his unit, was able to tell his CO all this.

Wheatley subsequently fought all the way up through Italy until he was recalled to Sandhurst as an instructor. In 1946 he left the Army to return to Exeter where he joined the family firm of meat merchants, E. Pease. He was its chairman and managing director for more than forty years and also founded several associated companies, notably South Western Industrial Gases. He was active locally, as a JP and on the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority.

He is survived by his wife Rose Marie, and by their daughter and three sons.

KENNETH COWLEY

Kenneth Cowley, CMG, OBE, former colonial administrator in Kenya, died on November 10 aged 86. He was born on May 15, 1912.

THE transition of Kenya to independence in 1963 owed much to the administrators of the Kenya Colonial Service. Kenneth Cowley was a member of that service for almost three decades, rising through its ranks to be Provincial Commissioner for the Southern Province from 1956 to 1963.

As independence approached, a commission was established to consider the sensitive matter of the regional and constituency boundaries after the transfer of power from Britain. Cowley's wide knowledge of Kenya and reputation for impartiality made him acceptable to all parties as secretary to this commission.

As it turned out, his decisions did not long survive independence, but his work undoubtedly helped to ensure a peaceful transition from colonial rule.

Kenneth Martin Cowley was born in Crosby, Lancashire, where his father had developed an extensive fruit and vegetable business around Merseyside. As his father was Manx by deriva-

tion, he spent many holidays staying with relatives in the Isle of Man. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby, and went from there to Exeter College, Oxford, where he also held a TA commission in the Royal Horse Artillery.

After Oxford, he immediately entered the Kenya Colonial Service and was posted to Kakamega. This was a gold rush town presenting plenty of challenges and problems for a 23-year-old district officer-cadet. He was closely involved in trying to solve the problem of cattle overgrazing. He spent seven months living in a tent, implementing a government drive to have all cattle branded. He personally branded - on the cheek so as not to spoil the hide - more than 100,000 of the half million cattle his team dealt with.

Promotion soon followed and he was appointed district commissioner in 1946 at Voi. District commissioners had wide judicial as well as administrative powers and could, for example, sentence offenders to up to six years in prison. During this period, he was responsible for developing one of the first agricultural co-operatives, at Tiata. He was a keen horseman and regularly rode

as part of his duties. He also proved very good at languages. He was then approached to take up posts within the central Government, and spent periods as Secretary for African Affairs and as native courts officer.

He was a modest, self-effacing man, with a calm approach to his work. A good listener, always pleased to hear the views of others before developing his own position on any question, he made an effective committee chairman. His willingness to let others have their say meant that he was regarded with affection as well as respect by many who worked with him.

He showed a particular interest in wildlife from his early days in Kenya. He gave much encouragement to the development of wildlife reserves, and took trouble to see that local people were always involved in such enterprises, believing that they would only succeed if a balance was found between local needs and those of tourists. His efforts and interest are reflected in the successes of the wildlife reserves in Kenya today.

Appointed Provincial Commissioner for Southern Province in 1956, Cowley was responsible for four districts,

covering both nomadic and settled groups of peoples. As co-ordinator of all government services in the province, he was in a very influential - if rather old-fashioned - position. He was fortunate to find himself in charge of a region little affected by the troubles with the Mau Mau. He was appointed OBE in 1956 and CMG in 1963.

After independence he worked for some years in Kenya as a senior administrative manager for the Express Transport Company, before retiring to England in 1971, settling in Hampshire. He was quickly back at work, however, being appointed secretary of the Overseas Pensioners Association, a position he held until 1979 and which involved representing his members' interests to Whitehall - a very different role from being part of the government machine. The position gave him scope to travel around to meet his members, including visits to the Isle of Man.

In retirement he kept in touch with former colleagues and never lost interest in developments in Kenya. His wife Barbara predeceased him in 1991. A second blow came when his only son died in 1996. He leaves a stepson.

GERALD GRISEY

Gerald Grisey, composer, died from a ruptured aneurysm on November 11 aged 52. He was born on June 17, 1946.



GERALD GRISEY was one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary French music. His rigour as a composer went hand in hand with a great catholicity of reference, ranging from Machaut via Janacek and Sibelius to Schoenberg or Stockhausen, as well as from technical processes to the sounds and rhythms of birds and ants or whales, or human breathing.

Above all, as both a teacher and a creator, he eschewed dogma or systems. This may be one reason why Grisey never seemed to be an established musician in France, whatever the success enjoyed by some of his compositions. Grisey's own pantheon was in fact a trinity, comprising Messiaen ("God the Father"), Stockhausen ("the Son") and Ligeti, ("the Holy Ghost"). Born in Belfort, he began his musical studies at the Trossinger Conservatoire in Germany. From there he moved on to the Paris Conservatoire, graduating in 1972 with prizes for his work on harmony, composition, fugue and piano. Among his teachers there was Messiaen. In 1969 he had studied with Henri Dutilleul at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Musique. At the same time he was developing an interest in electro-acoustics with Jean-Etienne Marie.

Beginning in the summer of 1972, Grisey attended the summer schools in Darmstadt, working with Stockhausen, Ligeti and Xenakis, all of whom were to have a lasting influence on his work. Simultaneously, as a winner of the French Prix de Rome, he spent several years at the

Villa Medici. There he met fellow composer Tristan Murail. Together with Michael Levinas and Roger Tessier, they set up the Itineraire group in 1973, offering an alternative to Pierre Boulez's Ensemble Intercontemporain on the French scene. By now Grisey was working on one of his major works, Les Espaces Acoustiques, which eventually consisted of six separate pieces designed to be played either separately or in association with the adjacent compositions: Prologue, 1976; Periodes, 1974; Partiels, 1975; Modulations, 1976; Transitoires, 1981 and Epilogue, 1982. The overall title points to Grisey's guiding

interest in the innate qualities of sound and its context. As he explained: "Sound only exists in relation to its individuality, and this individuality only becomes manifest in a context that illuminates it and gives it meaning. I therefore consider it essential for a composer to act not only on the material, but also on its 'space' on the 'defence' that separates the sounds. To allow room for both sameness and difference as the basis of the composition enables you to avoid two pitfalls, hierarchy and egalitarianism." Writing of a later work, Vortex Temporal, Grisey commented that "to abolish the material in favour of pure

duration is a dream I have pursued for a number of years".

Articulate but no theorist, Grisey often spoke of dealing with "sound Gestalts". The word most frequently attached to his approach was "spectral" because of its tendency to open up the harmonic spectra of sound. His attentiveness to acoustic phenomena even extended to the pauses or the possible discomfort of the performing musicians. In later years, his work became freer and more playful in the processes of subversion he introduced into his acoustic "machinery".

The "imaginary microscope" he turned on the process of composition was always highly varied. For one work, Anubis-Nout he invoked the mythology of Ancient Egypt in his management of contrasts, while Piero della Francesca was the reference for his L'icone for orchestra and two sopranos (1987). Egypt featured again in his final work, commissioned by the London Sinfonietta for a premiere next February: it was inspired by the inscriptions on sarcophagi.

Grisey was much appreciated for his warmth and sense of humour. Added to his receptiveness, these qualities made him a fine teacher, a role he played in Darmstadt, but also at the musical faculty of the University of California at Berkeley, 1982-86, and after that as professor of composition at the Paris Conservatoire (now in the Cité de la Musique, La Villette). It is a tribute to Grisey's openness that, although his "spectralism" was highly influential, his students always managed, and were encouraged, to develop their own personal voice. Gerald Grisey was married with one son.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL TICKETS for V. South Africa, All Paces Rugby 99, Premiership Soccer, Packages inc. F.A. Cup, Theatre & Concerts. We specialise in Tickets for ALL SOLD OUT EVENTS. 0171 283 4040. ALL CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

DELTA WORLDWIDE logo and flight information.

FOR SALE

NAME CONFIDENT COORDONER for... 0171 283 4040

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

FLATSHARE, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, CONCERNING an English & Irish...

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

CHARTERED FLIGHTS, FLIGHTSEEKERS

FARESAVERS

JETLINE, Jetworld

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

GREAT DEALS

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

STRAIN OF LIE IN THE GREAT CITIES

The report of Dr. Newsholme, C.B., Medical Officer to the Local Government Board for the year 1911-12 was issued yesterday. Speaking generally, the public health during the period covered by the volume has been in a satisfactory condition, and so far as it can be summarized in terms of reduction of death-rates from all causes and from special diseases, a comparison of the experience of 1911 with the averages of 1891-1900 shows that the rate of infant mortality has declined 10 per cent, the death-rate from measles 13 per cent, from scarlet fever 68 per cent, from whooping cough 44 per cent, from diphtheria and croup 59 per cent, and from enteric fever 60 per cent. But the improvement in the death-rates has not extended beyond the middle of life, the more advanced ages participating in it either scarcely or not at all. A series of figures and tables, taken from the reports of the Registrar-General, show for males, between the periods of 1841-5 and 1900-10 respectively, a reduction of mortality which reaches a maximum of 64 per cent between the ages of five and ten, and gradually declines to 3 per cent between 45 and 55, changing in the next two decades of life to a rate increased by 9 and

ON THIS DAY

December 4, 1912

"Strain of life in the great cities" has a familiar ring, but the date is not the 1980s, as one might guess, but a few years before the First World War. An inquiry into the causes of this mortality shows that both in men and women diseases of the heart and blood vessels were the registered causes of about one-third of the total deaths in the age period 25-65, and that diseases of the respiratory system, including pneumonia, cause in men about one-sixth, in women about one-seventh, of the total deaths at these ages, malignant disease rivaling respiratory diseases as the cause of one-seventh of the total mortality at these ages among men and one-fifth of that among women. The whole question of cancer is being made the subject of careful and systematic investigation in this and other countries; and the high mortality from diseases of the heart and blood vessels is in part a consequence of rheumatic fever in earlier life. A large share of it, however, is caused by degenerative changes occurring at the ages 45-55 and 55-65, which form an important anticipation of senility in the tissues, on whose integrity life and health chiefly depend...

is day... Burial service for wreck victims of 1763

may lose ing perk

They tried to hammer a stake... inserted by Mr. Rush.

NEWS

Blair plans to take advantage

The Government will try to capitalise on the revolt by Tory peers against William Hague by pressing ahead more swiftly with its bill to reform the Lords, it emerged last night.

As four more Tory frontbenchers in the Lords resigned over Mr Hague's sacking of Viscount Cranborne, Tony Blair was reported to be proceeding on the assumption that the deal brokered with the former Tory leader in the Lords was still in place. Page 1

Students revolt at Oxford

A rebellion over tuition fees at Oxford University is gathering momentum with students at two more colleges striking suspension by refusing to pay. Undergraduates at Somerville and St Hilda's colleges said yesterday that they would defy today's deadline. Page 1

No compensation

Police officers who suffered mental trauma after attending to victims of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster are not entitled to compensation, the House of Lords ruled yesterday. Page 3

Beware Beansies

Beanie Babies are tipped to become one of the top four toys this Christmas, but they are already No.1 among counterfeiters and money launderers, according to police. Page 5

Monica on Channel 4

Monica Lewinsky is to be paid £400,000 by Channel 4 to give her first television interview about her relationship with Bill Clinton. Page 5

Vision of hope

Eye surgeons yesterday announced a breakthrough after curing a man with the most common form of blindness in the western world. Page 7

Bonus for teachers

Teachers will be offered a double bonus worth more than £2,000 a year and based partly on their pupils' results under government proposals to stave off growing recruitment problems. Page 8

Sailors battle Dome

The sun is setting on 'The People's Yacht Club' as its weekend sailors complain the organisers of the Millennium Dome want them evicted as an 'eyesore'. Page 9

All in the name of science

Polly and Molly, the cloned sheep, had their nose prints taken by forensic scientists yesterday in an exercise designed to prove that even identical animals have unique snouts. After a scuffle as the American scientists got to grips with the world's first cloned siblings, the animals had their muzzles coated with ink and pressed onto a chemical-coated pad. Page 12

Sick man of Europe

Britain is only the 14th healthiest nation among the 35 countries of Europe and has fewer doctors per head of population than any of those nations other than Turkey and Albania. Page 13

Christmas spirit

A couple who spent more than £100,000 restoring a rented Grade II listed home have been told by their landlords, the Church Commissioners, to leave on Christmas Day. Page 13

Blast for BBC

The actress Prunella Scales yesterday criticised the BBC for limiting the number of plays on Radio 4 and for not carrying enough contemporary dramas on television. Page 15

That sinking feeling

Campaigners for a revolutionary floating dam to stop Venice sinking fear the Italian Government was about to rule that the project needs further study. Page 18

Lashings of Jospin

Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, gave a woman MP such a tongue-lashing that she fled from the French Parliament in tears. Page 19

Violence in Israel

Intifada-style violence broke out in Jerusalem and Ramallah yesterday as the Palestinian Authority rejected an Israeli ultimatum on the peace process. Page 21



HMS Birmingham is under guard in St Malo, where the British and French defence ministers will meet today. Story on page 6

BUSINESS

Rates cut: A co-ordinated interest rate cut by Germany and France surprised markets and triggered similar cuts by all other EU member states that will join the single currency on January 1. Page 29

Sears bid: Sears has received a takeover approach from a venture capital firm that would value the troubled retailer at around £460 million, a significant premium to the current share price. Page 29

French fear: GEC is concerned that any alliance with a French defence company will unsettle American clients over issues of national security. Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 58.9 to 3566.1. The pound rose 0.19 cents to \$1.6632 and 0.57 pfennig to DM2.7844. Page 32

SPORT

Cricket: The English game shook off more than a century of history when it voted for a two-division county championship, starting in 2000. Page 56

Football: Brian Kidd, assistant manager of Manchester United, is to succeed Roy Hodgson as manager of Blackburn Rovers. Page 56

Rugby union: Lawrence Dallaglio expects his England side to take the opportunities that Wales, Scotland and Ireland could not when they play South Africa at Twickenham. Page 56

Racing: After 130 years, National Hunt racing at Windsor was lowered into the dumpy soil on the banks of the Thames. The course will now stage only Flat racing. Page 49

ARTS

Reeling: 'The best thing a government can do for a great entertainment industry is remove as much red tape as possible - and stand well clear.' Richard Morrison on the British film industry. Page 37

Pop 1: The real villains in the sorry saga of Kylie Minogue's split with her record label are, as usual, the A&R men, says Caitlin Moran, laughing until she cries. Page 38

Pop 2: David Sinclair on the merits or otherwise of a clutch of 'live' albums from Garth Brooks, Pearl Jam, Aerosmith, the Rolling Stones and the Bee Gees. Page 39

Gasping: The Young Vic's brilliant staging of the Arabian Nights is the perfect antidote to today's drab, right-on children's entertainment. Page 40

Jane Shilling: 'Men are useless at buying presents. Many of the chaps I have known over the years commit present crimes so frightful that you think they must be doing it on purpose.' Page 22

Valerie Grove: 'Nobody has got as close to Annie Lee in Cider With Rosie as Juliet Stevenson in the new television film.' Page 23

Border war: The row over whether Scotland, after devolution, should have its own six o'clock news programme. Page 41

Air control: The man putting together a modern radio empire at remarkable speed. Page 42

Young and old: Brian MacArthur on the question that obsessed every editor. Page 43

Paymasters: Headteachers are being forced to appraise their staff in a way that has never been required before. Page 45

Open door: Why Stowe, where Michael Jackson wants to educate his son, is flourishing. Page 47

The British Law Lords' decision not to grant General Augusto Pinochet amnesty may have made sense as a narrow legal definition, but it created a bad precedent in the broader fields of international law and the ability of peoples to seek national reconciliation. Page 48



TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

SHE WANTS YOU Meet Billie, in the steps of the Spice Girls

COOL YULE Metro's wicked gift guide



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,966

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 29 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS
1 Priest with a couple of Bishops, heading East (4).
3 A sign of love that's sweet (4).
6 Pay tribute to a good person (5).
10 Get runs in match, that is plain (7).
11 Have an ambition that helps the other side (3,4).
12 Sort of wall that could be made in granite (9).
13 Arrested for quarrel (3,2).
14 Carrier? This ship's smaller (6).
16 Irritates son, being redundant (8).
18 Extension of loan, say, with a lot of banknotes extra (4,4).
19 Church worker coming from Essex to Norfolk (6).
22 Miss a green - up in arms (5).
23 Amplifies how amusement shows on one's face (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,965. A grid of letters with words like 'RIDICULOUS', 'MAJOR PLAYERS', 'AROMATIC', 'SCENARIO', 'SPALPEEN', 'TOUCHDOWN', 'PIG', 'PROGNOSIS', 'BINGO', 'BRINGING', 'POINT FACE'.

INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410
Inside FTSE 0336 401 746
RIS and Link Roads 0336 401 747
National Motorways 0336 401 748
Charter services 0336 401 749
Holidays 0336 401 750
Shipping to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0336 407 305

Weather by Fax
Fax 0336 401 887
Fax 0336 401 888
Fax 0336 401 889
Fax 0336 401 890
Fax 0336 401 891
Fax 0336 401 892
Fax 0336 401 893
Fax 0336 401 894
Fax 0336 401 895
Fax 0336 401 896
Fax 0336 401 897
Fax 0336 401 898
Fax 0336 401 899
Fax 0336 401 900

World City Weather
157 destinations world wide
By phone dial 0336 411 210
By Fax (Dial 999) 0336 411 211

Hours of Darkness
Sun rises: 7:42 am
Sun sets: 3:54 pm
Moon sets: 5:14 pm
Moon rises: 1:04 pm

Car reports by fax
AA Car reports by fax
AA Car reports by fax
AA Car reports by fax

Newspapers Support Recycling
Recycled paper made up
of 63% of the raw material
for UK newspapers in 1997

FORECAST

General: bitterly cold with brisk, chilly N wind. Some showers along North Sea coast, many of sleet or snow. A few wintry showers in N Wales and N Ireland. E Scotland will have snow showers, esp along north-facing coasts and over mountains where some of the snow will be heavy. The rest of the UK dry with sunny spells. High Republic dry, with frosty start; patches of mist or fog.

London, SE England: very cold with sunny spells; a few coastal showers, some wintry. Mod N wind. Max 4C (39F).

London, SE England: very cold with sunny spells; a few coastal showers, some wintry. Mod N wind. Max 4C (39F).

London, SE England: very cold with sunny spells; a few coastal showers, some wintry. Mod N wind. Max 4C (39F).

London, SE England: very cold with sunny spells; a few coastal showers, some wintry. Mod N wind. Max 4C (39F).

London, SE England: very cold with sunny spells; a few coastal showers, some wintry. Mod N wind. Max 4C (39F).

London, SE England: very cold with sunny spells; a few coastal showers, some wintry. Mod N wind. Max 4C (39F).

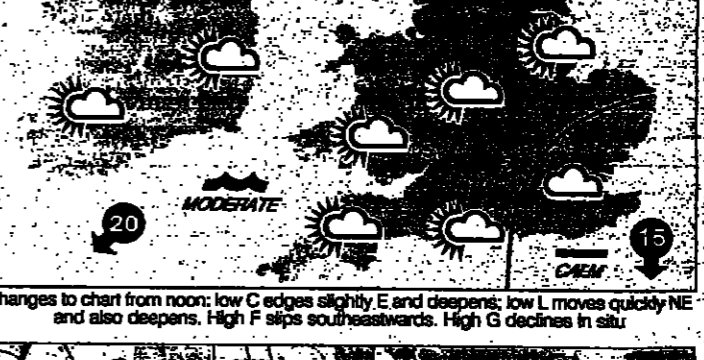
London, SE England: very cold with sunny spells; a few coastal showers, some wintry. Mod N wind. Max 4C (39F).

London, SE England: very cold with sunny spells; a few coastal showers, some wintry. Mod N wind. Max 4C (39F).

London, SE England: very cold with sunny spells; a few coastal showers, some wintry. Mod N wind. Max 4C (39F).

AROUND BRITAIN

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, cloud, max, min, wind, etc. for various UK locations.



Changes to chart from noon: low C edges slightly E and deepens; low L moves quickly NE and also deepens. High F slips southwards. High G declines in situ.

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, cloud, max, min, wind, etc. for various UK locations.

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, cloud, max, min, wind, etc. for various UK locations.

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, cloud, max, min, wind, etc. for various UK locations.

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, cloud, max, min, wind, etc. for various UK locations.

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, cloud, max, min, wind, etc. for various UK locations.

'Fowl weather.' advertisement for Fowl Weather Ale, featuring a cat and a bottle of ale.

Advertisement for Lifeboats, featuring a man's face and text about lifeboat launches.

Advertisement for Lifeboats, featuring a man's face and text about lifeboat launches.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Euro', '€460m', 'appro', 'for Se', 'rejec', 'by R', and 'Amtr'.

INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY

**GERMANY**  
Schröder losing appeal as darling of big business  
PAGE 33

**ARTS**  
Will the real Kylie Minogue now stand up?  
PAGES 37-40

**MEDIA**  
BBC Scotland takes on the London office  
PAGES 41-44

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
Pages 54, 55

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4 1998

## Euro 11 cut rates in co-ordinated move

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

CENTRAL banks of the euro 11 yesterday moved decisively to cut interest rates to the level that will now prevail at the launch of the single currency on January 1.

In a co-ordinated move that came earlier than many in the financial markets had expected, France and Germany cut their rates to 3 per cent from 3.5 per cent, and Spain, The Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Finland, the Republic of Ireland and Austria followed. Italy cut its discount rate to 3.5 per cent from 4 per cent. Luxembourg, the 11th member, ties its monetary policy to Belgium.

The European Central Bank made it clear that 3 per cent will be the level at which the euro is

launched and that it would seek to maintain euro 11 rates at this level for the foreseeable future.

The move clearly came in response to a more sober view of European growth prospects next year given the slowdown in the world economy. It also reflected fear, particularly in France, that a weaker dollar, reflecting America's growing current account problems, may cause a large and unwelcome appreciation in the euro. Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank President, said that the world economic crisis was not over and that there would be a further slowdown in 1999.

Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's Fi-

nance Minister, and the loudest voice in Europe demanding lower interest rates, yesterday welcomed the move. "On the whole," he said, en route to America and Canada, "I'm satisfied."

The markets had been beginning to hope for a European rate cut before the launch of the euro after

Wim Duisenberg, ECB President, on Tuesday highlighted the downside risks to growth. However, most had looked to December 22, the last news conference of the Bundesbank.

The smooth, co-ordinated wave of cuts gave a fillip to European stock markets that had been increasingly concerned about corporate profits.

However, markets came off their highs when Wall Street opened with no great impetus and as investors began to realise that this may be the last European rate cut for a while as the ECB pursues a period of stability.

Nevertheless, German shares still closed 2 per cent higher and French shares moved out of negative territory before the rate cuts to finish nearly 2 per cent higher.

However, the mood, given the fragile mood on Wall Street and worrying developments in emerging markets, remained cautious. Brazil yesterday saw its stock market plunge by nearly 7 per cent after its congress rejected a key part of the Government's economic recovery plan on which the recent International Monetary Fund-led rescue package was contingent.

But the mood, given the fragile mood on Wall Street and worrying developments in emerging markets, remained cautious. Brazil yesterday saw its stock market plunge by nearly 7 per cent after its congress rejected a key part of the Government's economic recovery plan on which the recent International Monetary Fund-led rescue package was contingent.

### BUSINESS TODAY

**STOCK MARKET INDICES**

FTSE 100	5268.1 (+58.9)
Yield	3.11%
FTSE All Share	2547.35 (+16.55)
Nikkei	14637.08 (+239.54)
New York	
Dow Jones	8662.85 (+51.81)
S&P Composite	1186.01 (+3.24)

**US RATE**

Federal Funds	4.75% (4%)
Long bond	103.7% (103.7%)
Yield	5.01% (5.02%)

**LONDON MONEY**

3-month interbank	6.75% (6.75%)
6-month interbank	7.00% (7.00%)
12-month interbank	N/A (N/A)

**STERLING**

New York	1.6647 (1.6685)
London	1.6638 (1.6610)
DM	1.6638 (1.6610)
FF	1.6638 (1.6610)
SF	1.6638 (1.6610)
Yen	118.78 (120.13)
S index	102.2 (102.2)

**NORTH SEA OIL**

Brent15-day(Feb)	\$10.85 (\$10.70)
------------------	-------------------

**GOLD**

London close	\$292.85 (\$293.95)
--------------	---------------------

\* denotes midday trading prices

## £460m bid approach for Sears rejected by Reid

SEARS has received a bid approach offering at least 300p a share from a venture capital business. Yesterday shares in the struggling retail group edged up from 196.5p to 202p.

Sir Bob Reid, chairman, has dismissed the £460 million approach, refusing to take seriously any offers below 300p a share. He said last night that 300p was "a ludicrous price".

Sears is aiming to sell its properties and credit card business and Sir Bob insisted these alone were worth about 200p a share. However, Sears's lawyer, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, recently put the break-up value of the group at 325p a share and concluded that "fair value is over 300p".

The venture capitalists are believed to have first talked to Sir Bob several weeks ago but their proposal has not been put to the Sears board. Sir Bob said yesterday that if shareholders wanted the chance to consider the proposal, "They will have to call an EGM".

The venture capitalists will be talking to Phillips and Drew, the fund manager, to try to win support for the offer. The firm holds a 24 per cent stake in the company.

In January the Selfridges department store was demerged from Sears in an effort to increase shareholder value. Sears shares at that stage were valued at 31p and since then they have slumped as low as 14p. Plans to float the Freeman's catalogue shopping business this month were shelved because of poor sales.

In the half-year to July the group, which owns 15 high street chains including Richards, Warehouse, Wallis, Adams and Miss Selfridge, made profits of £8.5 million. This compared with a loss of £9.3 million, most of it comprising the extraordinary costs of the continuing restructuring of the company as Sears finally pulled out of its loss-making shoe businesses.

The outcome for the full year had been forecast at around £55 million, compared with £61.6 million a year earlier, but analysts are now reducing the figure in the light of Wednesday's profits warning from rival retailer, Arcadia.

Sir Bob has admitted that more than one approach was made to buy the business. Sir David Alliance, chairman of N Brown, is said to have proposed a takeover of the company at 25p a share this autumn but his offer was rebuffed.

Sir David had wanted to buy the Freeman's business and had originally offered £350 million in 1997. He reduced his valuation to just £150 million when he made his offer for the entire group.

Sir David would have broken up the business, as the venture capitalists plan to do. It is thought likely that the management, led by Derek Lovelock, who runs the clothing chains, would like to buy out some of the businesses.



Window of opportunity: Lord Simpson, who revealed GEC is close to sealing a defence deal

## GEC admits dilemma over possible merger deal

BY ADAM JONES

GEC risks alienating the US Government, a significant customer, if it chooses to merge with Thomson-CSF, the French defence electronics group.

Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, the chief executive of the UK industrial group, admitted the dilemma yesterday as he revealed that GEC is close to a large defence deal that would transform the empire created by Lord Weinstock.

The possibilities include the creation of a pan-European military electronics contractor via a link with Thomson, a merger or joint venture with a US group — or even a long-awaited marriage to British Aerospace.

Lord Simpson said: "The group has been in intensive discussions for several months with a number of participants in the global defence industry. Discussions have progressed."

Although the US Government now appears more flexible on transatlantic deals with British firms, GEC admitted that it could lose American military work if it allies itself with Thomson, which is partly owned by the French State.

Lord Simpson, a Labour peer, said: "The Americans are paranoid about security arrangements." The US is widely acknowledged to be much less comfortable sharing secrets with the French than the British. He said this could make things "more difficult" if GEC

forged a military link with a French group. About 40 per cent of GEC's defence electronics turnover comes from the US Defence Department.

About 1,000 jobs are to be lost, however, through voluntary redundancies at Marconi Telecommunications, which employs about 16,000 in the UK. The restructuring will cut deepest at Cheltenham and Dagenham.

GEC was announcing interim results that showed profits before tax of £428 million, excluding exceptional gains, up from £415 million last year. Sales rose from £3.32 billion to £3.35 billion. Earnings per share before exceptional gains and amortisation rose from 10p to 11.4p. The interim dividend is 4.2p (3.43p) a share.

Tempus, page 32

## Host of problems take toll of GUS

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES, the home shopping market leader that bought Argos earlier this year, reported a sharp fall in profits in the first half and revealed a catalogue of trading problems in the UK and US.

The slowdown in consumer spending meant like-for-like sales in October and November at Argos fell 4 per cent, while home shopping trade was flat. Experian, its credit data division, is suffering from a drop in prices in the US.

Analysts cut full-year forecasts from about £550 million to £500 million. Pre-tax profit in the six months to September 30 fell to £176.1 million from £261.1 million. Sales rose to £2.35 billion from £1.5 billion.

Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, chairman, said GUS has withdrawn its finance business from the market and intends to securitise its debt books, which should raise about £750 million. He has also appealed against the Takeover Panel's decision to take no action about alleged inaccuracies in statements by Argos during the takeover battle.

GUS is paying an interim dividend of 6.2p (6p) from earnings per share of 13.7p (16.9p) before exceptional gains.

Tempus, page 32

## Reed Elsevier gives profit warning

BY RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

REED ELSEVIER, the international publishing and information group, yesterday issued a profit warning, admitting that trading conditions had become "more difficult" since the summer.

The company said it now expects pre-tax profits for the combined Reed Elsevier businesses to be about £770 million for 1998, a 6 per cent drop on last year including a 1 per cent currency hit.

Reed Elsevier interim profits fell by 1 per cent. Analysts had expected something similar for the second half. But in a trading statement the company admitted that "revenue demand in certain markets has not developed as expected in an increasingly competitive environment".

It said profits from exhibitions and science publishing had been adversely affected by economic instability in the Far East. The company said profits had also been constrained by investments in the move of its scientific division from hard copy to electronic delivery.

Analysts are now suggesting that with further economic slowdown likely next year, particularly in the UK, Reed Elsevier is likely to suffer a further year of falling profits. The search for a new chief executive is said to be on track, although an announcement is unlikely before early next year.

## Amtrak sale delivers £86m for founder

BY FRASER NELSON

A FORMER mail sorter who set up his own parcel delivery company with a £15,000 loan 11 years ago has sold up for £86 million.

Roger Baines, who left school at 15 to work for Hanson Parcels in Bristol, yesterday agreed to sell his Amtrak Holdings in a deal arranged by 3i, the venture capital firm. Baines built the company into what is now the country's eighth-largest parcel delivery company, with a nationwide network of 330 franchises delivering 50,000 parcels a day.

Baines, who is known on the National Hunt scene as an owner of a number of successful racehorses, has now retired to Jersey.

Being brought in to run Amtrak as head of 3i's management buy-in team is Mick Jones, the ousted chief executive of Business Post, one of Amtrak's fiercest rivals.

Mr Jones fell foul of a boardroom coup orchestrated by Business Post's Peter and Michael Kane after the brothers — who own 51.9 per cent of the company — returned from semi-retirement in Guernsey to take operational control of the company last August. They are now chief executive and managing director respectively.

Mr Jones said: "I was sent home from Business Post on gardening leave in August and I have been sitting at home since, maybe playing the occasional round of golf. 3i had been scanning the newspapers, called me up and asked me if I would be interested. I immediately accepted — it's the perfect job."

Peter Kane yesterday said that he does not consider Amtrak to be a particular threat to Business Post, the country's fifth-largest courier firm. "They are certainly a competitor," he said, "but we are twice their size."

Mr Jones was due to stay on Business Post's payroll for another nine months but has now severed all ties with the company and starts work at Amtrak next week. 3i hopes to float Amtrak in a few years.

Trinity Watch  
Yellow, white and rose gold intertwined rings  
Pavé-set diamonds on case

Cartier  
175/176 New Bond Street, London W1.  
Telephone: 0171-408 5700.  
188 Sloane Street, London SW1.  
Telephone: 0171-235 9023.  
The Fine Jewellery Room and  
The International Room of Luxury at Harrods.  
Telephone: 0171-730 1234.  
Heathrow Terminal 4.  
Telephone: 0181-745 6724 and leading  
jewellers throughout the United Kingdom  
and Ireland. For information on your nearest  
stockist please call 0171-408 5700

# Rover workers vent anger as bosses outline deal

By SIGRID AUFTERBECK

ROVER bosses were booed and heckled when they set out details of BMW's proposed rescue package for the troubled Longbridge plant in Birmingham yesterday.

More than 27,000 Rover workers from Longbridge and from another plant at Solihull were taken to a fleet of coaches by the company to the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham to hear union leaders join senior managers in urging staff to support the rescue package.

Presentations lasting between one and two hours took place at the NEC from 10am until well into the evening. There were repeated attempts to persuade shopfloor staff that the future of Longbridge was now in their hands.

Senior Rover managers received a hostile reception from an angry audience as they set out BMW's investment and restructuring strategy. It was left to Tony Woodley, chief negotiator of the T&G union, to garner support. Mr Woodley accused Rover's

management of driving the company into its current precarious state, close to bankruptcy, with its survival depending on BMW. He said: "You have to vote over the fate of 50,000 jobs that are at stake, although none of you are responsible for that."

Mr Woodley urged the company's workers to support the agreement negotiated between union leaders and BMW, aimed at saving £150 million a year at a cost of 2,500 jobs. He argued that a vote against the agreement would strengthen

the hand of a number of BMW directors who had shown their hostility to the company's continued support for Rover in Britain, opening a rift with Bernd Pischetsrieder, the BMW chairman. He said: "Pischetsrieder is putting his money where his mouth is."

Unions expect there to be majority support for the deal because a "no" vote would not only mean the closure of Longbridge, but it would probably also throw Rover into terminal decline. But even with their backs against

the wall, some of the company's workers said that they would be voting against it, simply as a sign of protest.

One car manufacturer from Solihull said: "I won't work overtime on short-term notice. If Longbridge is at stake, they should tackle things there."

Workers at Cowley, near Oxford, and Swindon will hold meetings next week before all of Rover's 39,000 employees vote on the proposed deal in a ballot. The result is expected on December 11.

# Greencore seeks to expand malt interest

A WORLDWIDE slump in the price of malt is opening up opportunities for Greencore, the Irish agribusiness firm that yesterday reported a 17 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £185 million (£52 million) for the year to September 25. Malt, an important ingredient in beer and whisky, has suffered a price decline due to the slump in Asia. Vertically integrated brewers are seeking to shed their malt operations and Greencore hopes to pick up market share. Greencore is the fifth largest malt producer in the world, the largest in the UK and Kevin O'Sullivan, chief financial officer, reckons that the downturn offers scope for acquisition. "We believe there are a number of malt producers losing money. There is oversupply," he said. Greencore's core sugar business suffered from green pound fluctuations caused by a fall in the mark against the Irish currency, which in turn depressed Irish sugar prices. Sugar sales were down 7 per cent to £147 million but profits rose to £15 million to £27.5 million due to greater efficiency. Greencore's agribusiness operation showed a marginal profit increase to £6.5 million but the food businesses gained 38 per cent to £22 million thanks to contributions from the acquisition of Pauls Malts and strong milling and baking performances. The annual dividend rises to 16.5p, up 10 per cent on earnings per share of 12.57p, up 15 per cent on last year.

# AorTech market plan

AORTECH INTERNATIONAL, the Scottish heart valve maker, plans to move to the main stock market next year when it seeks to raise funds to develop an important new body-friendly material. AorTech acquired the rights to Elaston, a polyurethane whose properties seem to make it ideal for heart valves and other medical implants. Eddie McDaid, AorTech's managing director, suggests the company could start marketing the product in Europe by 2002. AorTech's sales for the six months to September 30 were up 34 per cent at £1.25 million; losses rose to £275,000 (£234,000).

# Porsche drives ahead

THE recent fears about global recession have done little to dent the number of Porsches being driven out of showrooms. The German sports-car maker managed to increase sales by 34 per cent to about DM1.7 billion (£610 million) in the four months since August. The sales increase was driven by the new Boxster model, which sold 5,500. About 25 per cent of Porsche sales are to the US market, which has remained resilient as European economies have wobbled. Full-year sales and production figures are expected to beat last year's.

# Resilient Expro

EXPRO INTERNATIONAL, the oil services group, yesterday said that its business was proving resilient despite low oil prices and said that British and Norwegian activity levels would be maintained in the second half. The company revealed flat pre-tax profits for the half year to September of £10 million because of an increased interest charge after the acquisition of Tronic in May. The interim dividend is up 12 per cent to 3.4p. The company also announced £18 million of new contracts involving oil development projects.

# SB seeks approval

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM has applied to the European Medicines Evaluation Agency for approval to sell Avandia, the diabetes drug regarded as the most important of its forthcoming products. SB filed the drug, seen as a potential blockbuster, with the US Food and Drug Administration on Monday. The drug attacks insulin resistance, and is intended to reduce the amount of the body's own insulin needed by diabetics. Separately, the FDA approved Hycamtin, SB's cancer drug, for the treatment of small cell lung cancer after the failure of chemotherapy.

# SkyePharma stake sold

JACQUES GONELLA, former deputy chairman of SkyePharma, has sold a £14 million stake in the drug delivery company to an unnamed institutional investor. Dr Gonella has sold 17.6 million shares, but still retains a 21.3 per cent stake. Ian Gowrie-Smith, chairman, and fellow directors David Lees and Nigel Wray have all converted their warrants into shares. Mr Gowrie-Smith's 37.1 million shares are now worth almost £30 million. Mr Lees owns 6.9 million and Mr Wray 8.4 million shares. The shares closed 4p lower at 79p.

# Fall in BA high flyers

FURTHER evidence of corporate belt-tightening came yesterday as British Airways said that the number of first class and club class passengers declined by 2.9 per cent in November, on top of a 2.4 per cent fall in October. BA shares fell 14p to 377p as the carrier admitted: "Trading conditions are very competitive in both the premium and the non-premium markets, and yields are weakening. The outlook continues to be uncertain." Total passenger traffic in November was up 10 per cent thanks to a 13 per cent rise in economy passengers.

# RBS profits top £1bn for the first time

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PRE-TAX profits at the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) have topped £1 billion for the first time, the bank said yesterday as it reported year-end figures well ahead of market forecasts.

A £57 million gain on the partial disposal of its stake in Banco Santander, the Spanish banking group, helped to lift annual profits by 32 per cent to marginally more than £1 billion, against £760 million in the previous year.

This figure was after an exceptional gain of £96 million on its investment in Superdiplo, a Spanish retail business, and a £132 million provision against bad debts in the Far East. The bank also wrote off £14 million in Far Eastern investments.

It was also the first time that Royal Bank has included a profit from Angel Trains, the privatised rolling stock leasing company acquired in December 1997 for £395 million. Angel Trains contributed £46 million towards this year's profits.

Direct Line, the low-cost telephone insurance operation, fared well during the year, with profits leaping to £64 million from £36 million after a resurgence in motor premium rates. In May, the business paid a dividend of £70 million to the group.

Some of Royal Bank's more recent retail ventures proved less profitable. Its

18-month partnership with Tesco, the supermarket chain, racked up losses of £35 million, of which the bank's share was £17.5 million.

George Mathewson, the group chief executive, said the Tesco losses reflected the high start-up costs and insisted that the deficit was evidence of the operation's success. Tesco Personal Finance has acquired 600,000 clients, but Mr Mathewson said the venture would not break even until the end of next year.

Similarly, Royal Bank said its banking joint venture with Virgin Direct was promising, despite a £13 million loss attributed to the start-up costs. However, it did not say how many Virgin customers had taken out one of its One

Across the group, bad debts rose by £53 million to £200 million, although Mr Mathewson said this was a formula-driven increase on the back of rising volumes in credit cards and personal loans. A £118 million provision against Indonesia represented 50 per cent of outstanding balances.

Despite persistent reports that Royal Bank might seek a partner — a reverse takeover of Barclays in the wake of Martin Taylor's resignation as chief executive has been mooted — Mr Mathewson insisted that the bank would remain independent. Conversely, it was always on the lookout for acquisitions in the building society sector.

Tempus, page 32



Royal flush: Viscount Younger of Leckie, RBS chairman, flanked by George Mathewson, right, and his deputy Fred Goodwin

# Director ousted in Halifax shake-up

By CAROLINE MERRELL

A DIRECTOR of the Halifax, the UK's biggest mortgage lender, has been ousted from his job after a restructuring of the bank led by James Crosby, the incoming chief executive.

John Miller, the housing and technology director, will be leaving his £271,000-a-year post at the end of the year. He will continue to work at the bank until next April. The Halifax refused to reveal Mr Miller's severance terms.

Mr Miller was previously technology director of the Leeds Permanent and joined the Halifax when the Leeds was taken over.

The new structure means that the organisation will now be divided into five divisions: distribution, retail financial services, Clerical Medical, treasury and group. Mr Crosby said: "This is the organisation I want in place from January next year. Halifax staff have achieved an enormous amount in recent years. Now we must move to the next stage and make more of what we have in distribution, products, brand and a highly committed and professional workforce."

Mr Crosby says the structure will allow the bank to build stronger links with its customers.

Mr Crosby was the surprise successor to Mike Blackburn, who announced his resignation earlier this year. Since Mr Blackburn's resignation, the Halifax has been at the centre of much merger and takeover speculation. The bank has a large cash pile and it has been linked with Prudential, Barclays and Natwest.

# Fleming buys out Jardine holding

ROBERT FLEMING, the independent investment bank, is buying out Jardine Matheson from their joint venture in Hong Kong. The bank also disclosed a collapse in interim profits (Richard Miles writes). Fleming is paying £180 million in cash and shares for the 50 per cent stake that it does not already own in Jardine Fleming, the leading Asian investment bank and asset manager established in 1970.

Jardine Matheson, which prior to the deal owned 45 per cent of Robert Fleming stock, will see its stake in the investment bank boosted to 17 per cent as a result of the sale. The Fleming family stake falls from 35 to 30 per cent. The British bank is also buying out Martin & Co from Fleming Martin, the South African joint venture, in a transaction worth \$100 million (£60 million). Fleming

specialises in capital markets and advisory work. John Manser, chairman of Robert Fleming, said the two deals would give the bank greater control over its international network as it sought to compete alongside global investment banks. He added that he would have liked to have bought out Jardine Matheson earlier, but it took time to persuade the Fleming board. While some sector watchers

remarked that Fleming appeared to be tidying itself for a possible sale, Mr Manser insisted that the bank had an independent future. First-half profits to the end of September — prior to the market's rally — tumbled to £20.8 million from £91.1 million in the previous year. This was because of a fall in equity values, a decline in equity values and mark-to-market losses.

# Katzenberg close to Disney payoff

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

JEFFREY KATZENBERG, the former Disney executive who founded DreamWorks with Steven Spielberg and David Geffen, is close to winning a settlement of up to \$250 million (£150 million) from his former employers.

Mr Katzenberg, the mastermind behind Disney hits such as *The Lion King* and *Pocahontas*, has subpoenaed a host of Wall Street analysts and accountants ahead of arbitration negotiations. He is fighting to be given 2 per cent of all Disney profits from work originated by him. Disney has long been fighting the controversial clause in Mr Katzenberg's contract that outlines the 2 per cent sharing arrangement.

Earlier this year, the two parties were set to meet in court but Disney agreed at the last minute to settle. The exact sum will be set by an arbitration panel.

Mr Katzenberg fell out with Michael Eisner, the Disney executive chairman, in 1994 over his failure to be promoted to president. Subpoenas were sent to Ernst & Young, Morgan Stanley and analysts at Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch, PaineWebber and others. The subpoena seeks any "analyses, correspondence, memoranda or other documents" Disney provided since 1992.

Mr Katzenberg has now established himself as a credible rival to Disney. The final breakthrough is expected to come with the Christmas release of the film *The Prince of Egypt*.

# Foreign investors still drawn to UK

LARGE foreign companies are still more likely to invest in the UK than in any other European country, in spite of Britain staying out of the euro (Graham Searjeant writes).

A survey of 150 of the world's top 1,000 companies by A T Kearney, the US management consultancy, found that Britain was the fourth most likely destination for a share of the \$400 billion a year market in foreign direct investment. The UK trailed only the


US (the source and destination of a quarter of foreign direct investment), China and Brazil. Britain's rating in Kearney's FDI Confidence Index is the more remarkable because participants rated the size of the market as the single most important factor in their investment intentions. The implication is that the UK is still viewed as a good platform for the single European market.

Commentary, page 31

THE TIMES

# GEORGE SOROS

THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM



George Soros, the legendary financier and philanthropist will debate the causes of, and offer bold solutions to, the current global meltdown at this LSE debate next Monday, December 7, at 7pm.

Chaired by Professor Anthony Giddens, director of the LSE, Soros will be challenged by Mervyn King, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, and Anatole Kaletsky, Associate Editor of *The Times*.

■ Listen to the debate ■ Follow the serialisation of his latest book ■ Know the man, know his secrets...

[www.the-times.co.uk](http://www.the-times.co.uk)


CHANGING TIMES

IN Business Life

**TOMORROW**

The sweet smell of money. Who profits from perfume?

PLUS Work Station



Bank	Buy	Sell	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.76	2.88	Japan Yen	212.12	198.17
Austria Sch	20.62	18.58	Malta	2.652	0.905
Belgium F	90.71	55.75	Netherlands Gld	3.335	3.040
Canada C	2.872	2.484	New Zealand \$	2.31	3.07
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8703	0.7968	Norway Kr	12.58	12.02
Denmark Kr	11.19	10.30	Portugal Esc	208.72	276.88
Egypt	5.57	5.25	S Africa Rd	10.25	8.24
Finland Mk	9.03	8.28	Spain Ptas	248.71	230.08
France F	6.52	6.04	Sweden Kr	24.19	13.09
Germany Dm	4.521	2.703	Switzerland Fr	2.437	2.219
Greece Dr	194	455	Turkey Lira	5195.01	49471
Hong Kong \$	13.71	12.53	USA \$	1.770	1.827
Ireland P	1.1788	1.0668			
Indonesia	16354	11354			
Israel Sh	7.31	6.65			
Italy Lira	2535	2688			

Notes for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

**Informative:**

With effect from 4 December 1998 the following interest rates will apply:

	Previous Rate	New Rate
<b>Premier Cheque Account</b>		
Overdraft Rate	%p.a. %EAR	%p.a. %EAR
Agreed overdraft for balances up to £10,000	10.25%	10.7%
	10.25%	9.75%
<b>Mortgage</b>		
All loan amounts	8.25%p.a.	7.75%p.a.
<b>Equity Release Loan</b>		
All loan amounts	8.25%p.a.	7.75%p.a.
All loan amounts	10.25%p.a.	9.75%p.a.

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. Member HSBC Group.

# Rosy hue on searing light of reality

COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

**K**indly folk may choose to believe that Sir Bob Reid is in possession of some very rosy spectacles. Others may take the view that he is stubbornly blinkered to reality. Whatever the explanation for his distorted vision, it is time that his fellow directors at Sears saw the light.

If there is a serious offer for the company at a premium of about a third to the market price, shareholders deserve the chance to decide whether or not they want to take it. It is ludicrous for Sir Bob to insist that the company is worth about 50p or 60p at a valuation of 20p when even his own brokers cannot conjure up more than 32p.

Since all the evidence is that Sir Bob is a more effective agent for achieving shrinkage than the most vicious programme on the washing machine, the chances are that another year of his leadership at Sears will make 300p look hugely generous.

He may see his three-and-a-half years at the company as a success but that can only be because of those pink lenses. He failed to sell the Freemans catalogue business because he opted to go with the bidder that, as many had suspected was inevitable, fell foul of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. His chosen route for extracting Sears from its British Shoe Corporation businesses could hardly have been more badly mapped.

The sale to Stephen Hinchliffe's Facia backfired when the company collapsed. A little due diligence would have indicated that this flimsy company was not a suitable purchaser for the hundreds of shops that Sears needed to off-load.

But Sir Bob kept to his style of looking on the bright side at that stage and omitted to mention in his annual report that Sears had huge continuing liabilities for the shops that shareholders thought he had sold.

The former rail man continued to back the chief executive, Liam Strong, when Sears watchers were tearing their hair out as the business floundered. Management came and went as Mr Strong struggled to turn his eloquent expositions of strategy into reality. Even when he went, in April last year, it was with a payout of nearly £500,000.

Sir Bob's big idea to salvage the situation was a demerger of Selfridges and then the flotation of Freemans. The first has been accomplished, although the move has not done anything to enhance shareholder value. Selfridges shares now stand slightly below the demerger price. Floating Freemans has

been indefinitely postponed as profits slump. Launching a new catalogue aimed right at the top of the market seems an odd move at a time when customers are heading to the discount stores but it is just the sort of thing we have come to expect from Sears.

It is time that someone other than Sir Bob had a chance to put things right. The non-executives should insist that he looks at his valuations again.

**Unnecessary meal has sweet ending**

**A**ccording to the head of the Belgian central bank, it took his colleagues in the euro zone five hours to do the right thing. The arguments for lower rates are sufficiently compelling that Europe's central bankers seem to have made an unnecessary meal of it. However, given that they can be an obtuse and overly cautious lot,

we must be grateful that the decision didn't take until next year as the markets had faded.

The move cannot be faulted. Speculation had begun to rage about whether interest rates would move before the euro was launched. Being decisive now has taken speculation out of the equation and the euro's birthday will be smoother as a result.

Yesterday's move was economically right, both on European and global grounds. The European recovery has shown signs of flagging and Germany for one is already experiencing actual deflation. A flexible and (cautiously) growth-oriented monetary policy from the European Central Bank that subsidises its 11 baby-banks in four weeks' time is not only important to a Europe that has to start seriously tackling mass unemployment.

It is also crucial to world economic prospects. With Asia in recession and America building up an unsustainable current ac-

count position because it is acting as the world's importer of last resort, helping the rest of the world to export its way out of recession, it will be Europe that will next year have to take over as locomotive for world growth.

There have been mounting worries in Europe that America's current account problems will eventually cause a sharp decline in the dollar. The euro looks an obvious destination for that money and the last thing that the euro zone needs is a wildly appreciating currency.

Yesterday's move also heals the damaging public rift that had opened up between central bankers and Europe's centre-left politicians over interest rate policy. In reality, it is as much in the ECB's interests as those politicians to see the euro grow from baby to toddler against a background of economic growth and falling unemployment. One of the great risks for the single currency in its early years was always that, if it

was not seen quickly to deliver relative prosperity, the project would become deeply unpopular. There is little doubt that the ECB will move more slowly than Oskar Lafontaine would want in the months ahead. It remains that yesterday's move was good news for all concerned.

## Business rates UK above the euro

**F**our weeks before the advent of a single European currency, Britain is still the European country where top foreign industrialists are most likely to invest on the ground, according to a survey of foreign direct investment intentions by AT Kearney, the US management consultancy. Either international businesses have failed to notice that Britain will not be joining the euro zone for a while or, more likely, they don't care a hoot.

Among the ISO companies that responded, the size of available market is the single most important test, which helps to explain why Britain is headed in the popularity league by the US, followed at some distance by the equally sub-continental Brazil and China.

It also implies that the UK is still seen as a perfectly good platform for trading in the euro zone. In spite of the exchange rate risk that domestic firms are so prone to whinge about.

Germany now ranks fifth favourite but is still some way behind. One reason may still be that Americans, who make up a high proportion of the world's top companies, still favour working in English in Europe. Another may be that financial services are a strong area for cross-border investment and the City of London is still the place to be, whether sterling is in or out.

For the moment, the euro makes "in" countries look riskier both politically and economically. Britain's challenge is to look as attractive in foreign boardrooms in a year's time.

## Knight's gambit

**G**IVEN that Barclays has just lost its chief executive and its chairman is on his valedictory lap, it is a curious time for the executive deputy chairman to become non-executive. However Sir Andrew Large was not someone to play second fiddle to anyone — and certainly not to Sir Peter Middleton, an ex-civil servant who Sir Andrew presumably feels knows less about banking than a former head of the SFA might. Sir Andrew might reflect that while Sir Peter may be a peacemaker, this knight can wield a long knife.

## GRE sets date for review of suitors' bid terms

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

**T**HE bidding process for Guardian Royal Exchange, the composite insurer that put itself up for sale after an approach by AXA of France, is expected to end next week.

A board meeting is scheduled for ten days' time when John Robins, group chief executive, will examine the offers, expected to be in the £3.2 billion to £3.6 billion range.

There is still doubt over whether Mr Robins will be able to sell the whole of the company at a price acceptable to Schroders, GRE's major shareholder.

Industry observers believe that it is much more likely that a number of bidders will make offers for separate parts of the composite.

GRE has this week been sending out information to interested parties including AXA, GE Capital, Allianz and AIG.

Royal & Sun Alliance, CGU and Allied Zurich have requested information from GRE but are not believed to be serious bidders for the group as a whole.

Independent Insurance is interested in the general insurance business and in PPP, the medical insurer, but is not believed to have submitted a bid so far.

Analysts believe Independent and Royal & Sun Alliance are more likely to enter the fray if Mr Robins is forced to break up the group and sell off individual parts.

Morgan Stanley, the financial adviser to GRE, is attempting to gather a number of bids. Initial expressions of interest have, however, fallen short of the level Mr Robins regards as acceptable and way below the £4.5 billion total offer that analysts regard as the very top of the range.

GRE shares rose 8p to 329p yesterday. Earlier this week Mr Robins indicated that he believed GRE could continue to pursue an independent path, a comment that analysts interpreted as a signal that he was unhappy with the initial bids submitted.

Few in the industry believe, however, that GRE can survive alone. It lacks critical mass and has long been viewed as the weak man of the insurance sector.

# Bass bounces back as hotels provide shelter from gloom

By DOMINIC WALSH

**S**IR IAN PROSSER, the chairman of Bass, yesterday sought to dispel the gloom that enveloped the group after its September trading statement with a better than expected set of full-year results.

Operating profits from continuing operations rose 8.4 per cent to £122 million in the year to September 30, with Inter-Continental Hotels advancing by an impressive 35 per cent in the six months since Bass bought it for £1.77 billion. Its shares, which hit a low of 63p after the trading update, continued their recent recovery, closing 17p higher at 83p.

Sir Ian said that the company had already achieved \$15 million of cost savings from integrating Inter-Continental and was optimistic of reaching the \$40 million promised in the first two years. "I don't think anybody thought we were going to get 35 per cent growth in the first six months," he said.

Excluding acquisitions and disposals, hotels reported a 9.7 per cent rise in operating profits to \$261 million (£157 million). In the UK, average occupancy was slightly lower, although there was strong rate growth. The future of the mid-market Forum brand, that came with Inter-Continental's under review, and Sir Ian conceded that the 910-room London Forum, which it owns, could be converted to the Holiday Inn Express brand.

Elsewhere, trading was less buoyant, thanks largely to the poor summer weather, although Sir Ian was adamant that Bass was still outperform-



Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, left, and Richard North, finance director, reflect on yesterday's better than expected full-year results

ing the market. In brewing, where the market declined by 1.9 per cent, Bass Brewers was down 1 per cent, although a product recall costing £12 million saw profits drop by 10.7 per cent to £150 million.

The best performers were Carling, where volumes rose 9.7 per cent, and Grolsch, up 18 per cent. However, Hoop's Hooch continued its decline because of a 36 per cent

decline in exports, while Carling's was 11 per cent lower. Fierce competition sent Britvic soft drinks 28 per cent lower to £38 million.

The dire summer also impinged on Bass's pubs. Profits from the restructured Bass Leisure retail division were up 4.3 per cent at £269 million, despite the sale of almost 14,000 mainly tenanted pubs. Like-for-like sales in units where there was

no investment were down by 0.4 per cent, which Sir Ian described as "a very robust position against our competition".

This year the group plans to raise capital expenditure from £727 million to £800 million — half of it on hotels — although Richard North, finance director, said it would be spent only if the 11 per cent hurdle rates of return could be achieved.

In what was a year of mas-

sive upheaval, with £1.3 billion of asset disposals, profits before tax and exceptional charges rose £661 million — down from £714 million last time but well above analysts' forecasts of £640 million. Adjusted earnings per share reached 57.4p (55.5p) and a final dividend of 20.9p makes a total of 30.0p, up 9.1 per cent.

Tempus page 32

## Stakis in talks with unnamed investor to run West End hotel

By DOMINIC WALSH

**S**TAKIS, the hotel and casino operator, is in talks to take over the 161-room Green Park Hotel in the West End of London under a lease agreement with an unnamed property investor.

The investment group is buying the four-star hotel from Lum Chang Holdings of Singapore for close to £30 million and will appoint Stakis as operator as soon as the acquisition is completed, probably at the beginning of January.

Turnovers of the deal came on the same day that Stakis reported a 33 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £74.4 million in the year to September 27, from turnover up from £307 million to £359 million. That does not include an exceptional loss of £5 million from the sale of four hotels where Stakis retained management contracts. Headline earnings per share reached 8.03p (6.56p) and a final dividend of 1.75p makes a total of 3.0p.

Despite City scepticism over the prospects for hotels, David Michels, chief executive, painted a bullish trading picture, with all three divisions — hotels, casinos and health clubs — performing strongly.

Mr Michels said a hotel promotion with Tesco had elicited 4,000 calls a day since its launch two weeks ago. "The doom and gloom merchants ought to revise their models of our industry," he added.

Echoing his comments, Jeffrey Harwood, analyst at Robert Fleming, said: "I don't

think the hotel market is going to be the bloodbath that it was in 1991 and 1992 and the stock has been quite lowly rated." Yesterday, the shares gained 4p to 111p.

Mr Michels said that by summer 2000 the group hoped to have added another 20 hotels, thereby exhausting its UK opportunities. As a result, it has appointed consultants to examine overseas options, although no decision has yet been made. The group is also assessing whether to apply for a casino licence at the Stakis London Metropole Hotel, where it is building a £100 million extension.

## Wren and Masthead agree £49m bid

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

**W**REN, the integrated Lloyd's vehicle, has bought Masthead Insurance Underwriting, a spread investment company, for £49 million.

But in launching the agreed takeover, Robin Baillie, chairman of Wren, criticised the motives and practices of many rival corporate members. He said: "Rather than focusing on underwriting profits the primary goal seems to be the pursuit of over-ambitious corporate objectives."

Masthead shareholders are being offered 118p worth of Wren shares — using yesterday's closing price. There is a partial cash alternative at the same level.

He gave a downbeat assessment of the current climate within Lloyd's. He said there were "unsatisfactory trading conditions" prevailing in the market.

The takeover increases the amount of premium income capacity underwritten by Wren from £70 million to £120 million. Wren pre-tax profits were £3.2 million (£1.7 million) in the half year to September 30. The interim dividend is 1p (nil).

## Refocus benefits Avon Rubber

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

**S**HARES in Avon Rubber rose 6 per cent yesterday after the industrial rubber manufacturer reported full-year operating profits up almost 50 per cent to £22.3 million.

The group, which last year disposed of its tyres division to concentrate on what it felt to be more profitable operations, said it expects to maintain its progress through increased focus on technical products and further international growth in automotive products.

For the year to October 3, pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits

rose to £23.2 million (£19.3 million) on sales down to £267.1 million (£290.6 million).

The automotive products division saw operating profits rise 31 per cent to £15.6 million on sales up 13 per cent, boosted by acquisitions in the US.

Steve Wilcox, chief executive, shrugged off fears of a slowdown in the automotive industry. "Our order books are full to the brim — waiting lists are pretty full for most models," he said. The full-year dividend rose 8 per cent to 22.8p. Shares ended up 254p at 429p.

## Border hit by Century 105 start-up costs

**B**ORDER Television, the ITV company unveiled a slump in profits because of start-up costs of its latest commercial radio venture (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Pre-tax profits in the six months to October 31 fell 78 per cent to £180,000. Most of an operating profit of £1.57 million was spent on developing its newest and largest radio station, Century 105, which recently started broadcasting to the North West.

Jim Graham, chairman, said trading for Century 105 is ahead of expectations.

## Warning wipes third off LIG shares as profits fall

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

**N**EARLY one third was wiped off the value of London international Group, the Durex condoms and rubber gloves company, yesterday after it gave warning that profits will fall this year.

A rapid drop in the market price of a particular kind of rubber glove, designed for medical use, was behind the warning. Cheap imports from Asia meant LIG sales in this market slumped from £9.2 million to £2.3 million in the half and pushed the division into loss.

Expectations were that LIG

would have a troubled year financially as it switched production capabilities to make more advanced and higher-value medical rubber gloves. A decision to rebrand its American condom business to Durex was also disruptive. But the Asian chaos and its effect on gloves has worsened the group's profit outlook further.

LIG's profits are also to be hit by a £15 million one-off cost of closing an Italian factory.

Even ignoring this exceptional item, forecasters now believe

that LIG will make annual pre-tax profits of about £37 million in the year to next March. Previous expectations had been for LIG to make about £46 million; last year it made £41.5 million.

LIG reported half-year results for the six months to September 30 yesterday showing pre-tax profits falling from £9.2 million to £7.1 million, ignoring the Italian losses. The dividend is 0.9p (0.8p). The shares lost 57p to close at 130.5p.

Tempus, page 32

## Government backs BIA code

By PAUL DURMAN



McCullagh: ambitious plans

**T**HE Government's response to the parliamentary report into the British Biotech affair highlights the "paramount importance" of the need for "the highest possible standards of objectivity in the publication of information to investors".

The Government lent its backing to the new code of practice being drawn up by the Biotechnology Association, which will attempt to address the difficulties small biotech firms face when making highly price sensitive reports on the progress of clinical trials.

British Biotech faced a storm of criticism earlier this

year when it emerged that it had delayed telling investors about the adverse opinions that medical regulators had expressed about its pancreatic drug. Similar concerns surrounded its failure to disclose an investigation by the US Securities and Exchange Commission and the poor progress of a cancer trial.

The Government said the improvement of communication between smaller listed companies and institutional investors was central to a new Department of Trade and Industry initiative.

However it was not persuaded

that the respective regulatory regimes and the London Stock Exchange produced conflicts for the sector or other pharmaceutical companies.

The Government said the BIA code presented a real opportunity to further reinforce the obligations companies have for releasing information about existing medicines and those under development.

The British Biotech controversy forced the company to replace its chairman and Keith McCullagh, chief executive, and to abandon its strategy of creating a fully integrated drugs company.

## Tandem gets stuck in the stalls

By SAIED SHAH



Flat out: Tandem made loss

**T**ANDEM GROUP, the bicycle maker that wants to get into horseracing, reported yesterday that it had fallen further into the red as it signally failed either to sell its bike operations or to buy any assets on the turf.

The company, which has been returning losses since 1995, admitted yesterday that it has failed to get an attractive offer for its Townsend bicycle division and has now combined it with Falcon, its other bicycle business based on Humberstone, and put the two up for sale together.

Maurice Cowen, deputy

chairman, said a sale was not imminent but he said the company was in "serious" negotiations which should be completed some time next year.

Meanwhile, Mr Cowen said that the company was still evaluating "one or two" as yet unspecified horseracing-related acquisitions.

It was decided to change the nature of Tandem's business at an extraordinary meeting held on June 30, called by group of rebel shareholders. The change of direction was opposed by Robin Bromley-Martin, chief executive, who was removed at the meeting.

along with two other directors. John Sanderson, one of the rebels, now chief executive of Tandem, already owns IRM, a business that manages racecourses. Mr Cowen said that once Tandem buys some horseracing interests, it will bring in a management team from IRM.

For the six months to August 2, Tandem made a pre-tax loss of £1.01 million, which it blamed on the increased losses at Townsend bicycles, compared with a loss of £202,000 last time. Turnover was £17.60 million, down from £20.51 million.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# European rate cuts give investors renewed hope

NEWS of the concerted cut in interest rates across Europe rekindled hopes that the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee may follow suit at next week's meeting.

The move lifted share prices off the floor to end the session on a steady note and way above the lows seen earlier in the day.

During a volatile session, the FTSE 100 index plunged 130 points first thing on fears of another sell-off on Wall Street, where worries about the slowdown in corporate earnings and Brazil's economic problems have been weighing heavily.

After trading in narrow limits for much of the session, it rallied strongly towards the close, finishing 58.9 up at 5,566.1, having briefly touched 5,597.2. By contrast, the FTSE 250 index dropped 47.8 to 4,756.6 as a total of 1.02 billion shares were traded.

Investors were forced to contend with a mixed bag of results from leading companies. The statement accompanying its results meant that GEC, up 54p to 505p, was the best performer among the top 100 companies. Base also recovered an early fall to finish 17p dearer at 830p and Royal Bank of Scotland added 62p to 932p.

Reed International fell 10 1/2p to 443p after the latest profits warning from its associate Reed Elsevier. The Anglo-Dutch publisher expects to see pre-tax profits drop 6 per cent to £770 million this year.

The profits warning from London International left its shares 57p lower at 130 1/2p. Among the retailers it was the turn of Great Universal Stores to upset the market with a downturn in profits. The shares responded with a fall of 25p to 549p.

Arcadia, the Burton and Top Shop clothes retailer, continued to reel from Wednesday's shock profits warning finishing 21p down at 191 1/2p. Elsewhere on the high street, the prospect of flat sales in the run up to Christmas kept stocks under a cloud. Dixons fell 9p to 749p, Coverts (Farnshire) lost 22 1/2p to 237 1/2p, Kingfisher, 18 1/2p to 526 1/2p, Debenhams, 12 1/2p to 347 1/2p, and Next, 17p to 427p.

GKN was off 2p at 668p as Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, urged clients to switch into British Aerospace, up 22 1/2p to 500p. Railtrack was another casualty of a brokers'



Hossein Yassaei, managing director, saw VideoLogic firm another 2p to 52 1/2p after an upbeat trading statement

downgrading losing 73p at 15.89 as Merrill Lynch moved the shares from "accumulate" to "neutral".

Raphael Zorn Hemsley celebrated a near doubling of full-year pre-tax profits to £2.81 million with a rise of 8p to 115p. The London stockbroker is a specialist corporate adviser in the insurance broking industry and has been the driv-

ing force behind a number of big deals. Elsewhere in the insurance sector Wren, down 4p to 140 1/2p, launched an agreed £49 million offer for Masthead Insurance, up 8 1/2p to 115 1/2p.

An upbeat statement about current trading enabled VideoLogic to shrug off first-half losses and end the session 2p firmer at 52 1/2p. The multi-

media technology group made reduced losses of £400,000 in the first half and will benefit from royalties on its contract with Sega to supply chips for its Dreamcast computer console.

Planit Holdings, the computer software specialist, marked time at 24p after returning to the black last year and hitting the acquisition trail. Pre-tax profits were £60,000 against a loss last time of £600,000 and the group has paid \$9.2 million (£5.9 million) for Cabinet Vision in the US. The deal will be financed by the placing of 8.3 million shares at 24p to raise £2 million.

Plax Group firmed up to 10 1/2p as David Lees picked up 10 million shares at 8 1/2p. It takes his holding to 11.69 million shares, or 13.77 per cent. Over on Olex, shares of Vital the financial services group, came back from the dead. They were suspended at 8p earlier this year in an attempt to raise £200,000.

During the suspension period they still changed hands and fell to a low of 14p. They were quoted yesterday at 5p and touched 5 1/2p with one buyer known to be bidding for 30,000 shares.

SCIB Group recovered an early fall to finish 1 1/2p dearer at 189p after the company denied reports it was about to issue a gloomy trading statement.

GILT-EDGED: The move by Germany, France and other single currency zone players, failed to have the beneficial effect on the bond market that some traders had hoped. Even so, together with a fall in the November purchasing managers' index and another gloomy survey from the CBI, it fuelled speculation about a cut in interest rates.

Rises among bond prices in the London market proved limited. In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished 6p dearer at £117.51, while among conventional issues Treasury 9 per cent 2008 also put on 6p at £134.28.

NEW YORK: US shares declined on the news of a setback to the Brazilian reform programme. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 81.61 points to 8,982.93.

Because of technical difficulties at source, the London financial futures below relate to Wednesday's close.

Generators fresh interest. FTSE 350 electricity index. FTSE all-share index (rebased).

Table with columns for Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec. Rows include FTSE 350 electricity index and FTSE all-share index (rebased).

market technology group made reduced losses of £400,000 in the first half and will benefit from royalties on its contract with Sega to supply chips for its Dreamcast computer console.

Planit Holdings, the computer software specialist, marked time at 24p after returning to the black last year and hitting the acquisition trail.

Plax Group firmed up to 10 1/2p as David Lees picked up 10 million shares at 8 1/2p. It takes his holding to 11.69 million shares, or 13.77 per cent.

Over on Olex, shares of Vital the financial services group, came back from the dead. They were suspended at 8p earlier this year in an attempt to raise £200,000.

During the suspension period they still changed hands and fell to a low of 14p. They were quoted yesterday at 5p and touched 5 1/2p with one buyer known to be bidding for 30,000 shares.

SCIB Group recovered an early fall to finish 1 1/2p dearer at 189p after the company denied reports it was about to issue a gloomy trading statement.

GILT-EDGED: The move by Germany, France and other single currency zone players, failed to have the beneficial effect on the bond market that some traders had hoped.

NEW YORK: US shares declined on the news of a setback to the Brazilian reform programme. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 81.61 points to 8,982.93.

Because of technical difficulties at source, the London financial futures below relate to Wednesday's close.

Generators fresh interest. FTSE 350 electricity index. FTSE all-share index (rebased).

Table with columns for Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec. Rows include FTSE 350 electricity index and FTSE all-share index (rebased).

Generators fresh interest. FTSE 350 electricity index. FTSE all-share index (rebased).

Generators fresh interest. FTSE 350 electricity index. FTSE all-share index (rebased).

Generators fresh interest. FTSE 350 electricity index. FTSE all-share index (rebased).

Generators fresh interest. FTSE 350 electricity index. FTSE all-share index (rebased).

Generators fresh interest. FTSE 350 electricity index. FTSE all-share index (rebased).

Generators fresh interest. FTSE 350 electricity index. FTSE all-share index (rebased).

Generators fresh interest. FTSE 350 electricity index. FTSE all-share index (rebased).

Generators fresh interest. FTSE 350 electricity index. FTSE all-share index (rebased).

## RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Stock, Close, Change, and Dividend Yield.

## RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Stock, Close, Change, and Dividend Yield.

## RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Stock, Close, Change, and Dividend Yield.

## RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Stock, Close, Change, and Dividend Yield.

## RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Stock, Close, Change, and Dividend Yield.

## RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Stock, Close, Change, and Dividend Yield.

## RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Stock, Close, Change, and Dividend Yield.

## RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Stock, Close, Change, and Dividend Yield.

# The waltz of the wily

GEC is dancing a strange tango. Every time it leads a foreign defence contractor on to the dancefloor to make merger small talk, their private embrace is joined by two other parties treading on their toes - namely the respective national governments, who worry that globalisation might threaten state secrets.

GEC says it is close to a deal that would transform its defence business, Marconi Electronic Systems. This resolves any confusion about what GEC wants to be after suggestions that telecoms might lead it forward.

The strongest candidates for the big defence deal are American: Northrop Grumman, Raytheon or Lockheed Martin. A merger or joint venture with one of them would give GEC access to future Nato defence orders. GEC has enough operations in the US, especially after the recent purchase of Tracor, to

generate significant cost savings too. A merger with British Aerospace remains possible, but is unlikely. The GEC finance director, John Mayo, the GEC vice-chairman, and Richard Laphorne, the BAe vice-chairman, do not get on. It is also unlikely that GEC, as a systems supplier, would want to vertically integrate with an aircraft maker.

Thomson-CSF of France, still tarnished by state involvement, does not look like a suitable candidate either. Any deal with the French carries the risk that GEC's US businesses will be damaged. Our French friends are not well trusted by our American cousins.

With the prospect of a US tie-up in sight, and after strong interims that overcame weak UK and Asian markets and erased the memory of an inept warrant issue this summer, the shares are a buy.

While not yet profitable show a willingness to break away from the conventional approach to retail banking as it did with Direct Line, the low-cost telephone insurance operation. Direct Line, too, has confounded analysts who believed it was a busted flush.

On corporate and retail grounds RBS is attractive. Buy.

With this is where the Royal's heart is. One director was ever moved to complain, so to voice after yesterday's results presentation, that none of the banking analysts were interested in the corporate banking side of the business, preferring to concentrate on retail activities.

Royal's fortunes are as much dictated by its own corporate investments as they are by the behaviour of retail bank customers. Although the Asian adventures left scars, this year's profits have

largely beaten expectations because of gains on its investment portfolio: £57 million from a disposal of shares in Banco Santander and £46 million from Angel Trains.

Retail is, of course, representing an ever larger proportion of income. In the past year it accounted for half of the UK bank's profits. Ventures with Virgin and Tesco,

while not yet profitable show a willingness to break away from the conventional approach to retail banking as it did with Direct Line, the low-cost telephone insurance operation. Direct Line, too, has confounded analysts who believed it was a busted flush.

On corporate and retail grounds RBS is attractive. Buy.

With so many uncertainties, the shares are unlikely to motor. But the breadth of the business has attractions, and in better times GUS should hold on.

LIG's game plan, however, is a good one. There is no point trying to operate as a commodity supplier of cheap rubber gloves and condoms. So LIG is right to invest, innovate and drive towards higher margin markets. It is also right to build the Durex brand in America.

The markets for condoms, medical and protective industrial gloves should all see growth, fuelled by health and personal safety fears. Brand strength should enable it to defend margins, too. Even at 130p the shares are no bargain, trading as they do at 16 times this year's falling earnings. But the long-term story remains strong. Hold.

That said the retail side of

despite its grand name, Great Universal Stores now sits uneasily within the retail sector. Experian, a credit data business, is the biggest contributor to group profits and a many of the issues now effecting GUS have little to do with shopping.

With retailing in such grim shape this should be an advantage. However, Experian's customers are large and powerful, especially in the US. The price GUS can get them to pay for Experian's services is under pressure. It is not clear how long this deflation will go on, and it is also unclear how Experian would cope with a recession. Would it benefit from greater demand as people become credit-risk? Or would it suffer because of corporate belt-tightening? There is no track record to go by because last time companies like Experian hardly existed.

That said the retail side of

## RBS

AT FIRST glance, Royal Bank of Scotland appears to have pursued some rather strange lines of business for a high street bank: loans to 60 or more Indonesian companies, the purchase of a rolling stock leasing business and an investment in Superdrip, a Spanish supermarket chain.

With this is where the Royal's heart is. One director was ever moved to complain, so to voice after yesterday's results presentation, that none of the banking analysts were interested in the corporate banking side of the business, preferring to concentrate on retail activities.

Royal's fortunes are as much dictated by its own corporate investments as they are by the behaviour of retail bank customers. Although the Asian adventures left scars, this year's profits have

largely beaten expectations because of gains on its investment portfolio: £57 million from a disposal of shares in Banco Santander and £46 million from Angel Trains.

Retail is, of course, representing an ever larger proportion of income. In the past year it accounted for half of the UK bank's profits. Ventures with Virgin and Tesco,

while not yet profitable show a willingness to break away from the conventional approach to retail banking as it did with Direct Line, the low-cost telephone insurance operation. Direct Line, too, has confounded analysts who believed it was a busted flush.

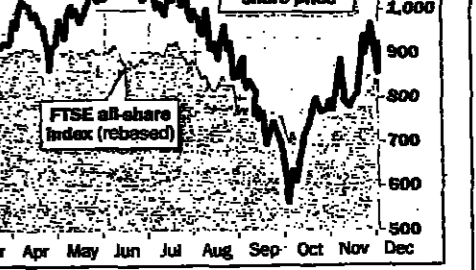
On corporate and retail grounds RBS is attractive. Buy.

With so many uncertainties, the shares are unlikely to motor. But the breadth of the business has attractions, and in better times GUS should hold on.

LIG's game plan, however, is a good one. There is no point trying to operate as a commodity supplier of cheap rubber gloves and condoms. So LIG is right to invest, innovate and drive towards higher margin markets. It is also right to build the Durex brand in America.

The markets for condoms, medical and protective industrial gloves should all see growth, fuelled by health and personal safety fears. Brand strength should enable it to defend margins, too. Even at 130p the shares are no bargain, trading as they do at 16 times this year's falling earnings. But the long-term story remains strong. Hold.

## ANYONE'S BANKER STOCK



ANYONE'S BANKER STOCK. ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND share price. FTSE all-share index (rebased).

## COMMODITIES

Table listing commodity prices for COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR (FOB), and MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

## COMMODITIES

Table listing commodity prices for ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm), GULF LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, and METAL EXCHANGE.

## LIFE OPTIONS

Table listing life insurance options with columns for Series, Feb, May, Aug, Nov, Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct, Dec.

## LIFE OPTIONS

Table listing life insurance options with columns for Series, Feb, May, Aug, Nov, Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct, Dec.

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing London financial futures for Long Bill, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond, Three Month Sterling, Three Month Euro, FTSE 100, and FTSE 250.

## MONEY RATES (%)

Table listing money rates for Base Rates, Discount Market, Treasury Bills, and Price Bank Bills.

## EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table listing European money deposits for Currency, Dollar, Deutschmark, French Franc, and Yen.

## EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table listing European money deposits for Currency, Dollar, Deutschmark, French Franc, and Yen.

## GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Bullion & Co)

Table listing gold and precious metals prices for Bullion, Platinum, and Silver.

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table listing sterling spot and forward rates for Mid Rates for December, Forward Rates, and Sterling Spot and Forward Rates.

## EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table listing European money deposits for Currency, Dollar, Deutschmark, French Franc, and Yen.

## GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Bullion & Co)

Table listing gold and precious metals prices for Bullion, Platinum, and Silver.

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table listing sterling spot and forward rates for Mid Rates for December, Forward Rates, and Sterling Spot and Forward Rates.





Robert Whyman on the deepest economic downturn since the war

Japan slides into record recession

JAPAN is officially in its longest postwar recession on record after new data showed that the country's economy shrank for an unprecedented consecutive fourth quarter.

The Government announced that gross domestic product in the July to September quarter contracted 0.7 per cent in inflation-adjusted terms, translating into negative growth of 2.6 per cent at an annualised rate.

Several economists said that they now expected the gross domestic product contraction in the current financial year to be more in the region of minus 2.5 per cent.

Private spending in the quarter was down 0.3 per cent from the previous three months. Special income tax cuts were implemented in February and August, but there was no evidence that these had spurred consumption as the Government had hoped.

With overall corporate profits falling 47.3 per cent in the half-year to September 30, Japanese companies were also reluctant to spend on new plant and equipment.

Southern Electric fined £1m by Offer

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC has been fined £1 million by Offer, the industry regulator, to be paid through lower bills to its electricity customers, for taking too long to open its market to competitors.

Dewhurst caution

DEWHURST, the electrical components and control equipment company, yesterday said it was unlikely to match last year's record profits in the current year.

Hartstone buyback plan

HARTSTONE GROUP, the leather goods and hosiery company that has emerged from a lengthy period of restructuring, proposes to continue to buy back its own shares after acquiring about 25 per cent of its own equity during 1998.

Abbeycrest sparkles

ABBEYCREST, the designer and manufacturer of jewellery, said that barring a poorer than expected Christmas, it would achieve satisfactory full-year results after it reported a doubling in profits at the interim stage.

Airspring into the red

AIRSPRING FURNITURE has plunged into the red at the halfway stage after spending \$8.2 million on the closure of its Casterbridge table & chairs factory at the cost of 130 jobs.



DENBY GROUP, the crockery and cookware manufacturer whose chairman is Stephen Riley, says falling UK demand is expected to affect sales and earnings in 1999.

Coats Viyella engineering arm for sale

COATS VIYELLA, the troubled textiles concern which three months ago called off plans to demerge its engineering business, has instead put it up for sale with a price tag of upwards of £300 million.

RZH at the double

RAPHAEL ZORN HEMSLEY, the corporate finance adviser, broker and investment manager, lifted pre-tax profits from £1.4 million to £2.8 million for the year to September 30, thanks largely to its strategy of focusing on the insurance sector.

Kalamazoo improves

KALAMAZOO Computer Group, a supplier of computer solutions based in the West Midlands, said performance had improved across the group as it reported a reduced pre-tax loss of £961,000 on continuing operations from a £2.6 million loss last time.

Back to school for Jarvis

JARVIS, the company that is better-known as a rail and road maintenance group, has landed two education contracts that together are worth £45 million.

Mid Kent on the rise

MID KENT HOLDINGS, the parent of Mid Kent Water, reported an 8.3 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £9.1 million for the six months to September 30.

Future of brewing jobs pinned on £70m Vaux management buyout



Sir Paul Vaux chairman

There had been fears that Mr Nicholson was struggling to get financial support for a credible bid. However, local sources claim he now has a choice of two venture capitalists and three banks.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

ASSETT, Frederick William Arthur... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a reference to the Copyright Tribunal under section 119 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 by the Copyright Tribunal...

LEGAL NOTICES

CONTRACT, DESIGN AND PATENTS ACT 1988... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a reference to the Copyright Tribunal under section 119 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988...

LEGAL NOTICES

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN TEMPLE-SCOTT... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a reference to the Copyright Tribunal under section 119 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988...

LEGAL NOTICES

WARD (INFRASTRUCTURE) LIMITED... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a reference to the Copyright Tribunal under section 119 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988...

NOTICE PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SUBSECTIONS 8(5) AND 10(6) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 1984

The Secretary of State hereby gives notice as follows. 1. He proposes to grant licences under the Telecommunications Act 1984 ("the Act") to Comptel UK Limited, Drivememory Limited, Faulbasic Limited, GTS Business Services (UK) Limited, Teletop UK Limited (trading as Satellite Media Services), and WXNET Limited...

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES. TO BE PUBLISHED IN THESE SECTIONS PLEASE. Telephone 0171 880 8878. Fax 0171 782 7830.

Handwritten scribble in the bottom left corner.

# Equities reverse early losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>						
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
<b>BANKS</b>						
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
<b>BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST</b>						
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
<b>DIWERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS</b>						
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>						
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>						
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
<b>CHEMICALS</b>						
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
<b>ENGINEERING</b>						
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>						
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
<b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>						
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
<b>ENGINEERING VEHICLES</b>						
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## HEALTHCARE

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## INSURANCE

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## MEDIA

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## SHORTS (under 5 years)

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## LEISURE & HOTELS

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## Mining

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## Oil & Gas

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## Other Financial

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## Pharmaceuticals

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## Retailers, Food

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## Retailers, General

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## Water

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

## Alternative Inv Market

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

1998	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11
110	110	Asahi Breweries	110	0	0	11

Is Electronic commerce working for you?  
It is for our clients.

**COMPAG Planet Microsoft**

Visit Planet's Advanced Technology Demonstration Centres in Bishopsgate, London & Central Leeds

Freephone: 0500 550 650  
E-mail: info@theplanet.net www.theplanet.net

Internet Solutions for Business from the UK's Largest Web Hosting Service Provider.

rn Electric  
lm by Offer

caution

buyback pla

est sparkles

into the re

the double

no improv

cheat for Jan

at on the ris

pinned

nt buyout

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name and category. Includes columns for fund name, price, and other financial metrics.

VISTOR GOLF AT advertisement featuring a golfer and promotional text: 'STARTS MARCH 1999 CALL 01764 694265 FOR DETAILS'.

Handwritten notes in the bottom left corner, including '10/10/10' and other scribbles.



POP  
Boy George leads the Great Eighties

# THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE  
Chicago gets a change of murderess  
PAGE 40



Disasters in cultural life usually happen while the press is looking the wrong way. So it proved again this week. British journalists were as enthralled as their American cousins by the spectacle of a huge Hollywood studio, Universal, tearing itself apart over the box-office failure of its £60 million porcine epic, *Babe: Pig in the City*. So enthralled, in fact, that they failed to notice the dull tinkle as the latest "renaissance" of the British film industry quietly fell apart.

The Labour Party, you will recall, made rebuilding our film industry one of the central planks of its "Cool Britannia" cultural policy. This was the week in which its dreams unravelled. First came word that its much-vaunted plan to launch a "voluntary levy" on British broadcasters and Hollywood studios was being abandoned after (surprise, surprise) being declared "naïve" and "unworkable" by aforesaid British broadcasters and Hollywood studios. A huge blow. The voluntary levy had been floated by the Govern-

## Lights, camera... but not a lot of action

ment's Film Policy Review Group last March as a way of raising £15 million to invest in new productions and training. Perhaps we should have guessed something was amiss: the film minister whose brainchild it was, Tom Clarke, was himself dumped in the summer.

Just a few days after this blow came another. Gordon Brown's "tax breaks" for the film industry — produced with a flourish in his July 1997 Budget — were declared to be unfairly "distorting the market" by our ever-meddlesome masters at the European Union.

That ruling, of course, will make life ever tougher for big British facilities studios such as Shepperton, Elstree, Leavesden and Pinewood, which are already struggling to hold their place in the world market. Indeed, Leavesden has just lost the £100 million contract to make the second and third "prequels" to *Star Wars*; the project has been re-

located to Sydney's brand new Fox Studios.

There's more disquiet on another front: the lottery money handed out for films. Back in May 1997, three companies were chosen out of 37 applicants to share a whopping £92 million of lottery money (far more than that awarded to the Royal Opera House) on the understanding that they would produce 90 films in the next six years.

There was controversy at the time, since one of those chosen, Pathé, was rather more French than British, and another, the Film Consortium, was led by two producers whose earlier film company had gone spectacularly bankrupt. Since then the disquiet has grown, as months have passed and almost nothing has appeared from the winning companies.

Yes, film-making takes time. Even so, one of the franchise-winners, DNA Films, didn't even an-



RICHARD MORRISON

announce any plans until last week — 18 months after it had been awarded £29 million of lottery lolly. "It is not a process that can be hurried," said DNA's Andrew MacDonald. You're not kidding, laddie.

And so the tale of woe continues. Even the Government's reasonable plan to hitch together the many

quangos that clog up the British film world into one all-powerful Film Council is under attack from those whose little empires would be jeopardised. A rival "UK Cinema Council" with much less power is now mooted by disgruntled factions instead. More confusion.

To make matters worse, the euphoria that briefly lit up our film industry after the triumph of *The Full Monty* has evaporated. British films' share of the domestic box office has dropped from 23 per cent to 10 per cent in a year.

That may be because we are still making mostly downbeat and uninviting films. Even if British films were all brilliant, however, most wouldn't get a screening. And that's the biggest disgrace about the nine-figure lottery handouts "invested" in films — that poor old Joe Public, having paid for them, won't get a chance to see them. It isn't entirely true that film dis-

tribution is controlled by a few giant American groups; there are independent distributors. But they lead a precarious life: indeed, two disappeared this year. Nor is it entirely true that the managers of the multiplexes that increasingly dominate our landscape are only interested in screening mainstream Hollywood product. They know that they must broaden their appeal to include older, more sophisticated audiences — especially since the 16-24 age group that currently dominates cinema attendance is shrinking as the demographic profile of Britain grows older.

But cinemas can only afford to screen movies that have been well marketed. Increasingly that means those with a seven-figure advertising budget behind them. Which leads us straight back to the big Hollywood studios. British films, made for £5 million

or less, simply cannot compete — even when endorsed by good "word of mouth".

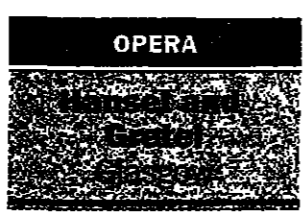
It's strange that this Government, which is more obsessed with popular culture than any of its predecessors, should have miscalculated its film policy so badly. It thought that a quick fix — tax breaks, voluntary levy, lottery handouts, a new quango — would convert a cottage operation into Hollywood-on-Thames. The truth is that Hollywood devotes as much attention to marketing, merchandising and distributing movies as it does to making them. If our Government wants to play at movie-producing, it has to play on those ruthlessly businesslike terms.

But should it be playing at all? If Hollywood's global success can teach us anything, it is that the best thing a government can do for a great entertainment industry is to remove as much red tape as possible — and then stand well clear. Contemplating the tatters of his film policy this week, our Culture Secretary ought to find that option rather tempting.

## Pudding over-egged

Humperdinck's fairytale opera has lost any innocence it may once have had — not much — in the hundred years since it was composed: Freud has intervened, plus Bruno Bettelheim, not to mention the use to which ovens have since been put in Central Europe, right down to the unspeakably tragic case of the Merseyside mother that hit the headlines last week.

And that's not all. The programme for Mark Tinkler's Scottish Opera production, revived on Wednesday, hurle a few extra ingredients into the pot: not for nothing did Tinkler sing (memorably) in the first London production of Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, which must have been a morass of dramaturgical delights. So we get the number seven, eggs as symbol of rebirth, alchemy (seven process-



OPERA

es), the *Odyssey*, Enid Blyton, James Bond, and Norman Bates (pardon?). It all starts in the overture — as if there weren't already enough going on in the music — with the Great Bear flashing up (seven stars — geddit?)

Thereafter, amid the plethora of ovular symbolism and ideas that are doubtless extremely interesting but not self-explanatory — exactly who are the 14 angels (twice times seven), and precisely what are the gingerbread children praying to be saved from? — one thing goes missing: narrative. There are simply too many ideas per square

foot, and the wood is lost in a forest of marginally relevant trees: no gingerbread house, no oven, no cage, just endless ruddy eggs. Give us a break.

And there's another problem. The conductor Richard Armstrong revels, as all musicians must, in Humperdinck's miraculous, optimistically orchestrated score. He and his orchestra, fresh from a run of *Tristan*, wham into it with a fine disregard for balance. Armstrong also pushes on pretty relentlessly, forcing the singers to concentrate on tone — simply to be heard — at the expense of diction, and for long periods not a word of the Poutinney translation is heard. Any children in the audience seeing their first opera must have been hard put to it to know what on earth was going on.

Of course there were compensations for oldsters who know the piece: simply to hear

this eager young orchestra scraping and blowing fit to bust in the Theatre Royal's inner-face acoustics was in its way mind-blowing, and Armstrong phrased the quieter music with a beguiling sensitivity.

But there is no escaping the impression of an excellent cast largely wasted: Leah Marian-Jones and Regina Nathan potentially superb as the children, Anne-Marie Owens singing a storm as the Witch but lost in this fatally unfocused staging. Phyllis Cannan sounding like a potential Brünnhilde as the Mother, David Barrell a bright, incisive Father.

If someone were to slip Armstrong a Bask of Valium before the next performance and scramble all those wretched eggs, things might start to look up.

RODNEY MILNES



Excellent cast lost in the woods: Anne-Marie Owens takes an unhealthy interest in Regina Nathan in *Hansel and Gretel*

Work yourself into a lather.

THE TIMES HUGHIER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT Every Friday

We can't save Kenny but we can save you money.

RRP £10.99 £7.99

RRP £10.99 £7.99

Save £3 on the latest South Park videos at WHSmith.

Hurry, offer tragically ends this Sunday!

www.whsmith.co.uk

WE love the video game.

OFFER ENDS 6TH DECEMBER 1998 OR WHILE STOCKS LAST SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY FROM WHSMITH AND JOHN MERRIES HIGH STREET VIDEO STOCKISTS. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS EXCEPTED.

POP OPINION

End of the line for Kylie?

ARTS

POP NOSTALGIA  
The 1980s live again

# Kylie runs out of new phases

The tiny Trilby no longer has a record deal — and pop's Svengalis have only themselves to blame

**K**ylie Minogue left her record label this week. Pfft. Tchah. Hee hee hee. Ha ha ha ha. Oh lordy me, what merriment. I'm leaking salt water from one eye, and my face has gone all red and puffy. That muscle in your belly — the one you never use except when you're laughing a lot — is aching like it's been towing a truck over sand.



CAITLIN MORAN

Lest you get the wrong end of the stick, let me reassure you that this vicious snurkling is not directed at Kylie herself. I interviewed her once, and she seemed like quite a game lass, really. She talked about her Dyson vacuum cleaner, correctly surmised that her entire career had been based on the last scene of *Grease* (where Good Sandra Dee turns into Bad Sandra Dee) and wept when conversation turned to the dead Michael Hutchence. She came across as a rather sparky shop assistant from Dorothy Perkins, ie the perfect teeny pop star.

No, Kylie herself isn't the problem — her personality isn't big enough ever to be a problem. It's the people who package her I loathe — more specifically, her A&R people that I laugh at, open-mouthed,

with bits of chewed food in there so it looks really disgusting.

A&R — it stands for Artists and Repertoire — is a bizarre job at the best of times. They kind of tell pop stars what to do, and, in the case of an artist such as Kylie Minogue, what to be as well.

In Kylie's case, since she left the auspices of Stock, Aitken and Waterman, every single piece of A&R advice she's received has frittered away a bit more of her fanbase. One of her solo albums saw her A&R men point her in the direction of some house music. The most recent — the one that's just bombed — had her going a bit *Manic Street Preachers*. It was all very... expedient.

**M**eanwhile, her image has oscillated wildly between disco vixen, Britpop girl-about-town, serious clubber, gay icon and that shiny-haired, hollow-eyed, emaciated and shopping-at-Prada look that all London women married to or earning more than £100,000 a year have.

She has been treated like some sort of school project by A&R men and stylists: "This summer, Kylie will mostly be



PRESS ASSOCIATION



ALAN HEDDERLEY



PETE NICHOLLS

Pick a Kylie, any Kylie, from the girl-next-door of Ramsay Street in 1988, through the sex kitten in her smalls that got them all going in 1991, and on to the sleek and sophisticated 1997 model

wearing... skate-gear!" Observing her over the past decade puts one in mind, rather queasily, of grown men playing with Sindy dolls.

And so, whereas Kylie was once one of the most recognisable brands in the Supermarket of Pop, these constant costume changes and musical about-turns have alienated most of her audience. And no wonder — when a fan is contemptuously told that what he loved about Kylie is "old-fashioned",

he'll cut his losses and buy a Steps single instead.

Cher's another fabulous example of this A&R litany, with her A&R men playing exactly the same game as Kylie's. Cher's last album smacked of Record Company Project, and it bombed. You could tell she didn't "get" half the songs on there. Cher's a rock chick at heart. She was never going to understand the nine-and-a-half minute ballad that the "Gershwin of the 1990s", Pad-

dy McAloon from Prefab Sprout, wrote for her. So there was a small panic she was updated for 1998, given the ace dance-like single *Believe* and went straight to No 1.

These short-term tactics mean, however, that there simply isn't anyone, in 1998, who would describe themselves as a "long-term Cher fan". Or, likewise, someone who had "everything by Kylie". Anyone who'd bought all of Cher's albums and loved them would

be a stark, gibboning *freak* they'd have to be into big ballads, stadium rock, syrupy duets, old school rock'n'roll, dance-lite, straightforward pop, country & western and Prefab Sprout. No one in the world likes all of that. Cher has to win her audience anew with every album, just as Kylie was forced to, and failed to.

So, what are A&R men? One rather famously said, when asked why he wanted to be an

A&R man: "I really want to stand in a studio with an artist and say 'I can't hear any singles on there!'. You get the idea. They are big, puffed-up fools. They are on this planet, simply and purely, to ensure that their "artist" has a single that will go Top Ten. That's it. If the single doesn't go Top Ten, they get fired. No more lovely free cocaine. So they obviously want to play-it safe, and send their artist-barking like a dog after the latest band-

wagon. I can well imagine Kylie was offered the opportunity to record another album if she agreed to theme it, say, around yo-yos. She — piqued that her dignity as an artist was being abused yet again, and making her first and last stand for her public integrity, on behalf of her fans — stormed out.

The sad thing is, of course, that Kylie's yo-yo album would actually have been rather brilliant.

The decade that brought us Duran Duran is back, writes Stephen Dalton

# The Eighties revisited

**B**etween now and Christmas thousands of outwardly sane adults will stand on their chairs and roar along to such fondly remembered 1980s hits as *Karma Chameleon*, *Hungry Like The Wolf*, *The Look Of Love* and *Don't You Want Me?* But instead of blasting from office party stereos, these oldies will be played by their original authors in huge arenas. Because the battle of the Eighties revival tours has begun.

To be more precise, it is 1983 again. Former sparring partners Duran Duran and Culture Club are touring again, the latter newly reformed and accompanied by fellow Eighties acts ABC and the Human League. Last month Blondie and Bauhaus also played packed houses. Although many of these bands have been sporadically active over the past 15 years, most are playing their biggest shows since Live Aid.

Rose-tinted Eighties revisionism has been rampant all year, from the vintage electro sounds of the *Beastie Boys* to the triumphant reappearance of New Order on the moribund festival circuit. Evidence, perhaps, of a deeper malaise within the music industry.

The British charts is like watching your mates on TV," argues Boy George, back with Culture Club after a 13-year hibernation. "It's *Grange Hill* on acid. So I suppose, visually, we still represent some sort of rebellion. There isn't much competition in terms of having a sense of theatre."

Born in the flashbulb glare of the nascent video age, Britain's early Eighties supergroups earned international success on the back of saturation MTV exposure. According to Steve Malins, contributing editor to *Q* magazine and co-manager of Gary Numan, lavish visual images remain key to this era's enduring appeal. "We haven't produced many traditionally glamorous pop stars in the Nineties, so these acts fill a vacuum, a need for escapism," says Malins. "We still produce great bands like Radiohead and Massive



ANDRE CAMARA

Back in the spotlight: Boy George, touring again with Culture Club after a long hiatus

Attack, but they tend to be anti-theatre and anti-stardom. Life in those bands never seems as much fun as being in Duran Duran."

But for record company marketing manager William Higham, the Eighties revival is simply a question of supply and demand. "The good bands of the Nineties are either playing places that are far too big or they are not playing enough," he explains. "Also, most so-called Britpop bands just don't stand up; they tend not to be glamorous and their time factor is fairly limited. Most 1980s groups were unmemorable too, but what unites all these comeback bands is great songs."

"The time has never been right or wrong for me. I've never tried to fit in. Unfortunately there is this nonsense Eighties revival, but there was no way I could have predicted that. And I don't think I will benefit from it anyway because I can't afford that amount of make-up."

With a new album, *Songs of Strength and Heartbreak*, due in February, Wylie is keen to distance himself from any short-term nostalgia boom. "The difference between me and bands like Culture Club is they are basing it on their past, but what I'm doing is based completely on new music. Those early Eighties bands were like the music industry's revenge on punk, and that is why they are still marketable. Their music is not offensive or threatening."

And yet, curiously, many of the spikier cult bands from the 1980s are also on the comeback trail. Gloomy Northampton quartet Bauhaus recently reformed after 15 years apart. Post-punk icons Siouxsie Sioux and Budgie toured mid-sized American venues as the Creatures in the summer, as did Gary Numan. Although

none of these artists enjoyed much US success in their heyday, their revived fortunes owe much to 1990s American superstars quoting them as influences. "The renewed interest in Bauhaus or Gary Numan is through the patronage of people like Marilyn Manson and Smashing Pumpkins," says Malins. "Their inspiration seems to be late Seventies and early Eighties new wave, goth and electronic pop, which is still quite fresh in America. They never really had it first time around."

Where will this nostalgia boom end? Although many of the touring have greatest hits albums out for Christmas, not all are being entirely short-termist. Both Blondie and Culture Club, for instance, will release new records next year.

"The idea of just doing a Gerry and the Pacemakers tour doesn't appeal to me," sings Boy George. "I'm not really a nostalgia freak; I spent years trying to get away from the Eighties. So when the idea of doing this tour came up, what was important for me was what happens after."

● The Culture Club/Human League/ABC tour is at the NEC in Birmingham on Sunday; Duran Duran is at the NEC on Monday

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

**THE TIMES**

Give those special friends and family members living abroad

**THE IDEAL GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS**

Set up a subscription to *The Times* for them at substantial discounts off local cover price and let them enjoy early morning delivery on the day of publication. We'll send you a **FREE 1999 DESK DIARY** when we receive your order

SUBSCRIPTION RATES						
COUNTRY	CURRENCY	12 MONTHS	SAVINGS ON COVER PRICE	6 MONTHS	3 MONTHS	SATURDAY ONLY 1 YEAR
BELGIUM	(BFR)	16599	48%	9129	4772	4661
FRANCE	(FFR)	3300	35%	1815	949	900
ITALY	(L)	1048887	30%	576288	301555	237428
LUXEMBOURG	(LFR)	16599	46%	9129	4772	4661
NETHERLANDS	(DFL)	778	56%	426	224	188
SPAIN	(PTS)	90000	18%	48500	25876	20700
SWEDEN	(SKR)	5232	37%	2878	1504	1056
SWITZERLAND	(SFR)	809	49%	445	232	177
REST OF EUROPE	(S)	474	57%	261	136	130
USA (AIRMAIL)	(D)	733	57%	403	211	208

Some day hand delivery is available as follows: Belgium - main cities; France - Paris (postcode 75); Italy - most areas in Rome, Milan, Turin, Florence, Genoa, Livorno; Netherlands - nationwide same day delivery by post; Netherlands - most cities; Spain - most areas in Madrid and Barcelona; Sweden - most areas in Stockholm, Gothenburg; Switzerland - most areas in Zurich and Geneva. If hand delivery is not possible, mail delivery usually takes two to four days. Mail delivery rates are different to the above, please call for details.

**The Times Subscription Form** IH98/XM254

Family/Friend's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I want to receive THE TIMES for:  
 12 months  6 months  3 months  
 Monday to Saturday  Saturday only

Payment by:  
 Cheque (made payable to News International)  
 Credit card (\*):  Visa  Mastercard/Access  AmEx

No: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: /\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (\*) Debited in £ Sterling at the current exchange rate

Please return to: News International, Subscription Department, P.O. Box 473, Victoria Street, London, England, E3 9SL. Telephone: 02 44 171 782 9133. Fax: 02 44 171 782 9130

**CHANGING TIMES**

1350

POP ALBUMS

Live, if not always kicking

ARTS

JAZZ Saxophone for all seasons

At play in the stadiums of light

Whether you see the live album as a glorious celebration of music recorded in its natural environment or a cynical marketing ploy...

To the loyal fan who has seen the show and bought all the act's studio albums, a good concert recording can be both a valued memento and an important part of the bigger picture.

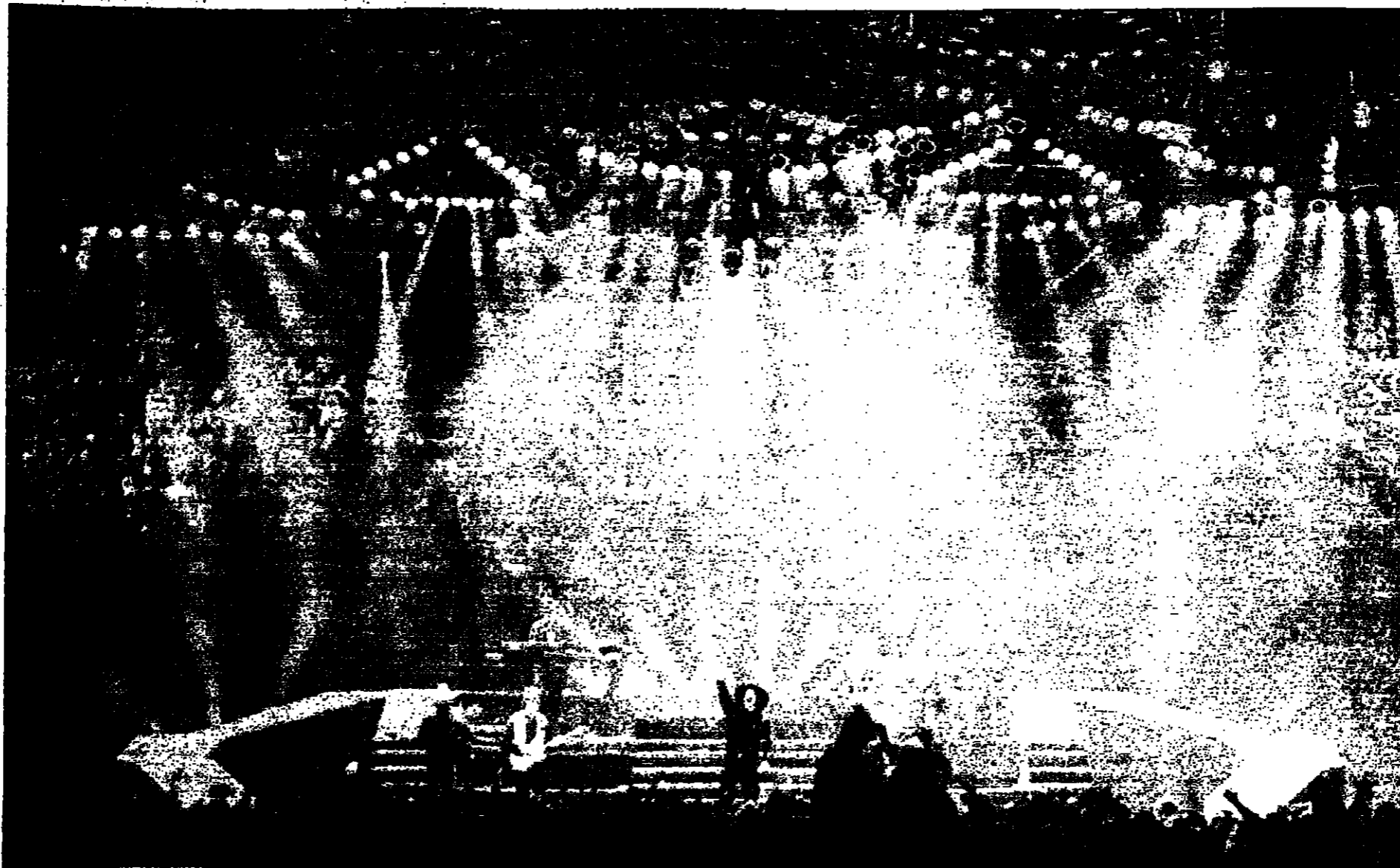
Thus it is with the new Garth Brooks collection, Double Live (Capitol 7243 4 97424).

NEW POP ALBUMS

two discs (£17.99), an excruciatingly sincere and piously self-serving double-album which sold more than a million copies in its first week of release in America.

Brooks has long been demoralised by country music specialists, both on the alternative and traditionalist wings of the genre, and listening to the overblown set-pieces on this album you can understand why.

Pearl Jam go to the other extreme on Live on Two Legs (Epic 492859 £12.99), a straightforward hustle through a selection of songs, all (except Even Flow) taken from their past four albums.



Garth Brooks's album Double Live sees the country cat in the hat tackle the tricky task of attempting to outshine the light show using nothing but his own superstar ego

Do the Evolution and Go there is a pecksnuffery approach to their live performance which tends to rub off on this disc.

The live album works best for old-school heavy rock acts, and Aerosmith have got the formula down to a T on their somewhat predictable offering, A Little South of Sanity (Geffen GED 2522); two discs (£15.99).

The Rolling Stones, however, are suffering from live album fatigue, as are their fans to judge by the meagre No 67 chart placing for their latest release, No Security (Virgin 7243 8 46740 £14.49).

A ragged run-through of Taj Mahal's Corinna and uneventful versions of rarely performed numbers including Memory Motel and Sister Morphine are not sufficient compensation, although Respectable rocks out nicely enough.

It is ironic that the year's most successful live album should be by a group which

has hardly toured at all in recent years and is not best known for its high-energy stage presentations. One Night Only by the Bee Gees (Polydor 559 220 £13.99) underlines the fact that live albums depend on good timing for their success every bit as much as those made in the studio.

Only remains in the Top Ten three months after it was released, and is on course to become one of the biggest-selling live albums ever released in this country.

FEAR OF POP Volume 1 (S50 Music/Epic 492794 £14.99) IT IS not fear of pop so much as a fear of committing to any one strand of pop that is the defining feature of Volume 1, a collection of "instrumental and spoken word songs" by the singer, songwriter and pianist Ben Folds.

show soundtrack kitsch of Kops - all chattering hi-hat and wah wah effects - to the French film-noir atmosphere of Slow Jam '98. Folds seems more concerned to show off his zany cosmopolitan influences than to develop a broader theme or come up with any sort of coherent statement.

FRUITLOOP To Be or Not to Be Bop a Lula (Cup Of Tea/Vital COTCD024 £14.99) HAVING come up with such a wonderful title for their de-

but album, the electronic duo of Tara Strong and Daniel Goddard, better known as Fruitloop, fail to press home the advantage. A motley collection of gentry skanking ragga, breakbeat and jungle-influenced grooves, it cruises by with a light, mysterious touch. But even with some lively contributions from rapper Cantankerous on Jumpin and Outta Control, it never really coalesces into anything more than thoroughly modern background music.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Do the funky shuffle

WAYNE HORVITZ AND ZONY MASH Brand Spankin' New (Knitting Factory Records KFR-223)

AFTER the adventurous, multi-textured music of keyboard player Wayne Horvitz's 1997 album, 4+1 Ensemble - the "1" was electronic sound processor Tucker Martine, and he had trombone, violin and two keyboards to process - Zony Mash's line-up of Horvitz's Hammond, Timothy Young's guitar, plus Fred Chaloner's bass and Andy Roth's drums, seems almost disturbingly conventional.

JAZZ ALBUMS

Young's Electric Sandworm is an appropriately sinister slitherer culminating in a spooky fade-out. Horvitz is often seen as a slightly esoteric figure; this consistently accessible album should please anyone into the new jazz-rock of Bobby Previte or James Hunter.

DAVID SILLS Journey Together ALAIN TRUDEL Jericho's Legacy (Naxos Jazz 86023-2; 86021-2)

THOSE exercised about the high price of CDs should welcome the Naxos Jazz project: an enterprising list (executive producer, pianist Mike Nock) introducing fresh talent on budget-price albums. These - by West Coast tenorman David Sills and Canadian trombonist Alain Trudel - are the pick of the latest batch. Sills is a modern mainstreamer applying his airy, lightly swinging, almost Stan Getz-smooth sound to material by the likes of Joe Henderson and Lennie Tristano; Trudel brings his faultless classically-trained technique to bear on a richly varied programme of spikily cogent originals and Monk tunes.

CHRIS PARKER

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (3) Ladies & Gentlemen - The Best of George Michael (Epic)
2 (2) I've Been Expecting You Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
3 (9) The Best of M People (M People)
4 (5) Talk on Corners Doves (Atlantic)
5 (6) One Night Only Bee Gees (Polydor)
6 (4) The Best of 1980-1990 U2 (Island)
7 (8) Step One Steps (A&M)
8 (12) Where We Belong Boyzone (Polydor)
9 (7) Voice of an Angel Charlotte Church (Sony Classical)
10 (9) Hiss Phil Collins (Virgin)

Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

Come, all ye faithful

Appropriately enough, given that his latest album is entitled Rites, a concert by Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek is a reverent, almost ceremonial affair, Chris Parker writes. The faithful are warmed as they are gathered at the Festival Hall that latecomers will not be admitted for over 45 minutes; there is no interval; after 90 minutes the band accepts its first prolonged applause and is persuaded by the audience's polite rapture to play another half-hour; the faithful depart, profoundly affected.

Such is the beauty, power and integrity of the music, however, that it is easy to accept that the almost ritualistic elements surrounding it are solely directed at creating the perfect listening environment. For Garbarek's music - contrary to a frequently voiced criticism that dismisses much of his and his label ECM's output as esoteric mood music - does richly reward the rapt attention bestowed on it by his capacity audiences. True, the overall sound produced by his regular group - keyboard player Rainer Bruninghaus, bassist Eberhard Weber, percussionist Marilyn Mazur - is superficially beguilingly attractive, even pretty. The music's roots, though, draw on a rich mixture of traditions, so it is infused with both considerable vigour and a wholly uncontrived benign spirituality.

Most importantly, it is also faultlessly yet passionately played. Garbarek's soprano tone is ravishingly pure, his majestic, swirling tenor uniquely affecting. The Jan Garbarek Group is a peerless jazz outfit.

LAST 8 DAYS! phèdre britannicus Albery Theatre

The Art of Music at HMV. ESSENTIAL BAROQUE. PERFECT PEACE. WESTMINSTER ABBEY CHOIR. Get money off vouchers\* worth £50 when you spend £20 now.

'OUTSTANDING.' GEORGE CLOONEY JENNIFER LOPEZ '...hip, romantic thriller...so good it gives you goosebumps.' '...a little bit of movie heaven.' 'Clooney and Lopez delight...excellent.' OUT OF SIGHT

POP NOSTALGIA 1980s live... visited... W





# Like father, like son: a double act from Santiago

Journalistic tradition has it that when a big story breaks, extra troops are flown in to support those already at the scene. James Reynolds, 24, the BBC Chile correspondent, was the local man in Santiago when the Pinochet story broke and, unusually, found himself working alongside his father, Paul, 52, imported from the Washington bureau. Here father and son report on their first joint professional assignment.

## THE SON

WE LEFT for our assignments on the same day in June. My father headed for Washington, the BBC's biggest foreign bureau. And I headed for Santiago, one of its smallest. We had thought that the next time we would see each other would be with the rest of the family over Christmas. So it was a fantastic surprise a couple of weeks ago to hear that he would be coming out to Santiago. But there wasn't much time to catch up. The work started as soon as my father arrived.

He had television reports to film, and I had radio features to record.

For the day of the House of Lords verdict (Wednesday, November 25) we decided that my father would watch the ruling with General Pinochet's opponents and I would watch it with General Pinochet's supporters.

It turned into an eventful morning. When the verdict was announced, the crowd at the Pinochet Foundation reacted at first with disbelief, then with anger and violence. They began to attack anyone who was an outsider — which meant the journalists. I con-

cealed my tape recorder and left.

Outside I discovered that the BBC television team (for the *Nine O'Clock News*) at the Foundation had been attacked and were under police guard. I was told they were OK and I headed back to the office.

When I got back I called my father to let him know what had happened and then I left a message with my mother in London to say that I was fine. She said later that the first she'd heard of any trouble in Chile was via messages from me and my father assuring her that we were both OK.



Paul and James Reynolds: keeping it in the family

During the rest of the week the demand for the story continued. The BBC, to its credit, never rubbed us up (although my name changed from James Reynolds to "James Reynolds" as presenters made sure they got it right).

During breaks from reporting, my father and I would meet to compare notes and to agree on how to pronounce the names of Chilean politi-

cians. His constant advice and encouragement got me through the week.

I was sad to say goodbye. Growing up, I'd heard my father's voice broadcasting from around the world. I'd seen microphones and tape recorders lying around the house. I'd always wondered what it was really like to be a foreign correspondent. Now in Santiago, I finally found out.

## THE FATHER

IT WAS more luck than design that found me in Santiago for the House of Lords decision. A colleague in the Washington bureau had more call on the story than I did, as he had been there for General Pinochet's retirement as Commander-in-Chief earlier this year, but he had taken time off for Thanksgiving, so the lot fell to me. I was delighted. It would be a fascinating event — and a free trip to see James.

It was nice to be greeted by a familiar face after the night flight from Miami, and the briefing I received on the way into town was somewhat more informed than the one reporters normally glean from the taxi driver.

Our only trouble was making sure that London did not get us mixed up (but we ordered a piece from Reynolds ...). We each had more

than enough to do. I had been told that I was to serve only the television outlets, with Ben Brown also there to do the *Nine O'Clock News*. James would do the huge range of radio coverage.

This meant far longer hours for him than for me since he had to stay up until 1.30am to be interviewed for the *Today* programme. We compared notes on the differing styles of its interviewers.

I did feel guilty as our television team drove around town in a van and retired for the night into a hotel mentioned in *The Leading Hotels of the World* guide, while James took the Underground to and from his modest office.

We spoke a lot by phone, when I usually discovered that the people we were interviewing had already been done by him.

Only when things calmed down did I get the chance to take him out and get a good steak inside him.

The only moment of concern I had for James was when I learnt that the BBC crew waiting for the result with the Pinochet supporters had been assaulted. It turned out that James had anticipated the attack (led by extremely smart women) and had been smart himself by slipping away.

We had been looking forward to doing a double act on BBC World by phone, with him at the Pinochet rally and me with the relatives of the disappeared. Sadly, in the scrum of events after the court verdict, this never happened. I don't think I heard my phone ring amid the cheers.

It had come as no real surprise that James had decided to become a journalist. We had taken him and his sister around the world for ten years when they were young, so he must have picked up the bug. He is by now thoroughly initiated. It was a thrill to see him do well in Santiago.

# Should Scotland go alone?

Devolution for TV news at the BBC? Not if London gets its way, says Magnus Linklater

WHEN the Governors of the BBC meet next Wednesday they will be facing open revolt from their Scottish network. Not since *Panorama* rode roughshod over Scotland's electoral rules and scheduled an interview with John Major in the middle of a local election campaign in 1995 has there been such resentment north of the border.

One member of the Broadcasting Council for Scotland has resigned, and, in defiance of the corporation's normal constraints, 11 radio and television presenters have written a letter of protest to national newspapers.

The row centres on whether Scotland, after devolution, should have its own six o'clock TV news programme. The Governors say they are "mindful" not to agree. That suggests they will stick to the expanded UK-wide six o'clock bulletin currently under discussion, which will give "due weight" to Scottish and Welsh news items, but will still be controlled from London. The notion that editorial decisions about the running order of stories and the presentation of news should be made from the BBC's Scottish headquarters in Glasgow has thus far been rejected.

Reaction north of the border has, predictably, been scathing. Editorials have denounced the Governors' attitude as condescending and backward-looking. Professor Lindsay Paterson, of Edinburgh University, has resigned from the Broadcasting Council in disgust, and the 11 presenters, who include Kerry McIntyre, the BBC Scotland's veteran political editor, Iain MacWhirter, the commentator, and Ruth Wishart, a frequent presenter for *Woman's Hour*, have accused the BBC of failing to keep pace with political change.

John McCormick, the head of BBC Scotland, is trying to hold a neutral line in public, but in private is just as committed to a Scottish bulletin as most of his colleagues.

Behind the row over what has come to be known as "the Scottish Six" is a deeper issue — the BBC's instincts for centralised management, as developed by its Director-



A few local difficulties? Sir John Birt, the Director-General of the BBC, left, and John McCormick, the head of BBC Scotland

General, Sir John Birt. It is partly a matter of cost, it is partly a philosophy which favours executive decisions controlled from Broadcasting House.

Deeper down lies the unvoiced view that BBC Scotland is simply not up to the job — leaked stories have suggested that Scottish news and current affairs staff are not as professional as their London counterparts. The Scottish Six would thus be mediocre in production terms and parochial in outlook.

This view, which has naturally caused outrage in Glasgow, is tacitly endorsed by Scottish politicians at Westminster, who like appearing on national news and who do not warm to the idea of being confined to a Scottish programme.

All of this is hotly denied in London and Glasgow. Scotland produces more than its fair share of expert and experienced journalists, and only needs

proper funding to produce a professional service, drawing on London resources for national and international coverage.

But, try as it might, the BBC cannot avoid the whiff of colonialism. Last month, after a Governors' meeting in Glasgow, the Chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, gave a dinner for the great and the good of Scotland, during which he picked out the BBC's Scottish stars — Kirsty Wark, Jim Naughtie, Gavin Esler among them. Unfortunately, all of those he named were London-based. There was no mention of the cream of BBC Scotland's TV and radio presenters, most of whom had been invited and were seated

around the room. One of the BBC's public relations team was observed sinking deep into his seat in embarrassment.

Officially, the BBC's explanation for maintaining the status quo is that it does not want to be seen as

running ahead of the political process. It regards itself as the glue holding the UK together, and believes that if Britain is to continue talking to itself, it should do so from London. It found some support for caution in a poll run last week in *The Scotsman*, which showed that viewers were evenly split — with 48 per cent for a separate Scottish bulletin and 48 per cent against.

But the arguments in favour of change are becoming almost irresistible. An internal BBC survey revealed that out of the 280 news items on the *Six O'Clock News* in March this year, only three were from Scotland. Many of the government stories, which do make up the UK agenda, are simply not relevant to Scotland, which has a separate education and legal system. When the next Parliament is up and running next year, most of the domestic decisions affecting Scotland will be made in Edinburgh, not Westminster.

How a London staff would achieve the right editorial balance for Scottish viewers is hard to imagine. And Scottish audiences do want Scottish coverage. More peo-

ple in Scotland listen to Radio Scotland's *Good Morning Scotland* programme at breakfast than to any other radio station, including Radio One. As Ken Cargill, BBC Scotland's head of news and current affairs, says: "It is not about territory or empire-building nor, as many seem to fear, is it about nationalism — it is about what the audience here in Scotland will need to be better informed about the issues and the institutions that impact on their lives."

Sooner or later the BBC will have to bend to Scottish opinion. Just as a Labour Government accepted devolution, so the Governors will need to understand that the UK they are pledged to serve is evolving beyond where a London editorial team can decide what is best for Scotland. In the end the viewers will vote with their remote controls and switch to ITV if it offers something better. The last thing they will want is a parochial service.

The best solution would be a Scottish Six and a UK Nine — a six o'clock news made in Scotland and a nine o'clock news from London. It's called choice.

# ITV chief tipped to win top BBC post

AS soon as Christmas and the new year are over, the very best media party game is due to get under way in earnest — finding a new Director-General for the BBC. Although it seems likely early days because Sir John Birt, the incumbent, does not depart until his contract ends on March 31, 2000, in reality the appointment will be made next year and the manoeuvrings have already begun.

In the days of multi-channel television, becoming Director-General may not seem like a very big deal but it still carries the allure of the best job in British broadcasting. People are prepared to accept a very large pay out for this honour. The interest this time lies in the relatively open nature of the competition and the wide spread of potential candidates. Last time the job was not advertised and the candidacy of John Birt was bundled through in a rather tawdry process orchestrated by the then chairman, Lord Huscsey of North Bradley. A split majority vote was eventually obtained after a closed-door dinner of Governors. We are now in a much more open era where the desired result will be obtained, apparently, in a much more transparent manner. We are assured that the job, worth around £300,000 a year and lots of free tickets to the Proms, will be advertised.

The specifications can be easily stated. Some knowledge of broadcasting would clearly be an advantage, but some of the brighter management consultants, who cynics say have been virtually running the Corporation in recent years, would not be excluded. Given the nature of the competition that the BBC will face in the next millennium, it would be wise to choose a man or woman with a programming background, commercial skills and the personality to walk the floors and stroke the considerable egos of the creative staff. A working knowledge of the language of new Labour would also be useful.

An intriguing aspect of the battle is that there does not seem to be a credible inside candidate for the job, even though there is no shortage of talent around. A cadre of 41-year-olds has just moved into

new jobs destined to test them for the highest office, but the contest is surely too soon. They are Mark Byford, from regions to World Service; Mark Thompson, from controller BBC2 to regions; Matthew Bannister, from director radio to BBC production; and Jenny Abramsky, to director radio. They will all attract odds, as will Tony Hall, chief executive news, but will still a candidate, his star has waned after technical and organisational difficulties suffered by BBC news output.

The theory that the widely respected survivor Will Wyatt will be persuaded to delay his retirement to keep the seat warm for a year or two for one of the young hopefuls is

gaining ground but should be disregarded. Wyatt is already accepting external posts for his new life and, however talented, the BBC does not need a caretaker DG. So the search for an external candidate, but it is not easy to spot the winner. David Elstein, of Channel 5, is accomplished but insists on excluding himself by denouncing the BBC licence fee. Greg Dyke, of Pearson and ex-LWT, is a strong dark horse: close to the men who will make the choice, Sir John and Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC Chairman, and with a populist touch and strong Blair connections.

The vacancy will surely come too early for Michael Jackson, the chief executive of Channel 4. But a new dark horse may be about to emerge. Howard Stringer, the Welshman who ran CBS in the US and is now president of Sony there, has recently bought a house in Oxfordshire. At 55, he would be a one-term DG and therefore ideal to keep the younger pretenders on ice. But perhaps the strongest external candidate is Richard Eyre, chief executive of ITV, who has thorough commercial experience from the advertising industry, has run Capital Radio, and is now revitalising ITV and providing renewed competition for the BBC.

At this early stage, he has to be the favourite.



# Satellite TV fuels Chinese revolution

WITHIN a few weeks Chinese television will enter the world of satellite pay television and begin a process that could well see the opening up of China's skies — so determinedly closed four years ago by a ban on private-dish ownership.

From January 1 more than 10,000 villages will get cabled up to China Central Television's (CCTV) nine channels as a first step in bringing pay television to China's 305 million television households.

The prospect of being part of this potentially enormous pay-television service has brought some of the world's biggest media players to Beijing. The MIH group, based in South Africa, News Corporation's NDS (a sister company of *The Times*) and Encore International, a subsidiary of the American cable television giant TCI, have been lobbying for technology and content deals impossi-

ble only a few years ago. The winner appears to be the MIH group with a deal to supply thousands of decoders.

The expected launch of this service comes as China undergoes a near revolution in broadcasting. Competition and rapid commercialisation is gripping the country's network of several thousand local, cable, provincial and state television stations.

CCTV already reaches into the homes of 900 million people, making it the country's wealthiest as well as the most politically powerful broadcaster, being under the direct control of the Communist Party Central Committee.

The initial roll out of the DTH (Direct To Home) service will be directed at the poorest regions of the country as part of CCTV's public-service broadcasting duty to bring television to the television-less. But what is causing providers

targeting China. The second major development is the mushrooming of a Chinese independent production sector after the decision by CCTV and other major broadcasters to outsource more of their programming. This is to make state-owned companies more market-oriented and efficient. Cost-conscious broadcasters are already squeezing China's independent producers, forcing them to look for co-production partners, sponsors and overseas sales.

The big broadcasters are becoming stricter about production quality while also reducing budgets," says Wang de Zhu, the chief executive of Golden Mainland, News Corporation's \$2.2 million joint-venture Chinese television production company.

The new economic realities are also driving greater innovation in programming. According to *China Media Mon-*

itor, this has led to the introduction of a version of the British game show *Go Bingo* on a provincial station with 60 million viewers. On CCTV a version of the Oprah Winfrey show *Speak The Truth* is now in its second year.

The programme recently captivated the nation when it featured a confrontation between a teenage girl and her father. The teenager was into fashion and music but her father demanded that she stay at home and study. It was hardly Jerry Springer but it had tears — hers, his, the audience's — anger and, finally, public reconciliation. "We're not just making the programme to increase ratings but to train people into thinking about society's problems," says its producer, Shi Jian.

● The writer is a China communications specialist at the University of Westminster



Shows such as *Sesame Street* are heading for China

THEATRE  
Vic goes  
Cabbie  
with  
heart  
Choice 2  
Ambassadors

# Master of the radio galaxy

What next for the man behind two hit radio stations, asks Chris Ayres

**R**ichard Huntingford is putting together a modern radio empire at remarkable speed. In just four years, he has created two of the nation's most slickly marketed radio station formats — Heart and Galaxy — which will soon be available to more than 24 million adults in Britain.

These formats, targeted at niche audiences, are perhaps the clearest illustration of how deregulation, intense competition and the ease with which listeners can now flick between stations have changed the British commercial radio industry.

Research teams decide which records the stations' target age ranges most want to hear, and these songs are downloaded from hard disk drives into the stations' high-tech studios. Huntingford, chief executive of radio at the media group Chrysalis, runs Heart and Galaxy as though he were performing heart surgery.

Thanks to his success, Chrysalis, headed by the Queen's Park Rangers tycoon Chris Wright, is well on its way to becoming as powerful as commercial radio's three biggest players — Emap, GWR and Capital — an ambition boosted in October when it won the North East regional licence. This week the company reported a 72 per cent rise in advertising sales at its radio division to more than £18 million.

Huntingford — a 42-year-old with a shock of grey hair that makes his head look like an illuminated light bulb — left school at 17 to join the accountants KPMG, and got to know Wright, now company chairman, when he took on Chrysalis as a client. When Chrysalis floated in 1985, Huntingford joined as corporate development director.

It was not until 1993, however — after the company's failed bid for the Yorkshire TV franchise — that



Richard Huntingford seized on a gap in the commercial radio market to turn Chrysalis into one of the big four players

Huntingford suggested that Chrysalis move into the commercial radio industry.

"Radio was taking about 3 per cent of advertising spend at that time, which intrigued me because in North America it was taking up to 10 per cent," he says. "I persuaded Chrysalis's management to buy a 20 per cent stake in Metro Radio for £5 million." This stake — later to be bought by Emap for £19 million — won Huntingford a seat on Metro's board.

At the time, Huntingford says, there were only two kinds of commercial radio stations: Top 40 FM services aimed at 20 to 30-year-olds, and Golden Oldie AM services for over-40s.

There seemed to him to be gaps

in the market for stations aimed at 25 to 44-year-olds, playing what he calls "adult contemporary" (music by middle-of-the-road performers such as M-People, Elton John and Cher) and at 15 to 29-year-olds (mainstream house music punctuated by sets from trendy DJs).

Soon afterwards, the Chrysalis radio empire was born. Licences for Heart were won in the Midlands and London in 1994 and 1995, then the company launched an ambitious acquisition programme. In 1995 Chrysalis bought Galaxy, covering Bristol and Cardiff, and in

1997 it bought two Kiss stations, covering Manchester and Yorkshire, rebranding them as Galaxy. Most recently, Chrysalis bought Birmingham's Choice and won the North East licence, both of which will also become Galaxy stations.

Under the Government's points system, which allocates points to radio licences and bans media companies from owning more than 15 per cent of them, Chrysalis has room to expand: it owns only 9 per cent of the points, compared with Emap's 14.6 per cent, GWR's 14.5 per cent and Capital's 10.9 per cent.

Chrysalis's next target is the Scottish region licence, which it is bidding for in partnership with the comedian Billy Connolly and *The Daily Record*, because Huntingford thinks that an English company alone may not go down too well. Connolly apparently feels there is a need for a station in Scotland that caters for "disenfranchised youth".

Huntingford also intends to introduce a new station format — yet to be decided on — and to apply for the London and other regional digital radio licences in partnership with Border Radio.

Some media-watchers say the Radio Authority has been keen to see a fourth big player in commercial radio. That player has certainly arrived.

the media interview

# Jobs may go up in smoke

■ A SURVEY commissioned by three leading tobacco companies, reported in *Campaign*, suggests that the proposed European-wide ban on tobacco promotion could result in a loss of as many as 1,500 full-time jobs in the advertising and sales-promotion industries. The controversial ban is due to come into effect in 2001 but the cigarette manufacturers are seeking to have it declared unlawful. The anti-smoking pressure group ASH has said that the forecast of job losses is exaggerated.

■ HEAVYWEIGHT boxing champion Lennox Lewis has signed a £1.5 million sponsorship deal with the fashion chain French Connection, reports *Marketing Week*. The British fighter, who will meet Evander Holyfield in New York on March 13 to unify the two rival world heavyweight titles, will wear the controversial FCUK logo on his shorts in all training sessions as well as in the ring on the big night.

■ A NOVEL marketing initiative by the food giant Sainsbury's, using the Internet, is reported in *Marketing*. Holders of the Reward Card who are on e-mail will be targeted with special offers and will also be able to check their balances online. Ultimately, they may be able to redeem Reward points online.

■ ALTHOUGH less than a year old, *Sunday Business* already has almost as many readers among top business executives as *The Observer* and *The Independent* on Sunday put together, according to a MORI poll reported in *Press Gazette*. Board members of 500 companies were asked what Sunday papers they read. *The Sunday Times* finished on top with 78 per cent, with *The Observer* and *The Independent* on Sunday joint bottom with 10 per cent each. Newcomer *Sunday Business* scored 19 per cent.

■ ROGER LAUGHTON, chief executive of Lord Hollick's United Broadcasting & Entertainment (UBE), will step down at Easter to take up an academic career, reports *Broadcast*.

The 56-year-old former BBC executive led Meridian's bid for the ITV southern England franchise in 1990 and has overseen its expansion to include the Anglia and HTV regions. He will become head of the University of Bournemouth's School of Media from next autumn.

John Willis, formerly of Channel 4, will replace him as chief executive of UBE.

■ CHANNEL 5 secured its best rating for an original programme last week with its coverage of the Miss World beauty contest. Overnight ratings reported in *Broadcast* gave it 2.6 million viewers, amounting to a 12 per cent share of the total audience. Miss World has been seen only on satellite TV since it was dropped by the terrestrial channels ten years ago.

■ A HARD-HITTING profile of Steven Cain, the new managing director of Carlton Communications, features in *Marketing*. The 34-year-old is a former marketing director of Asda. Intuitive and creative, he is also described as "bright" with the "ability to get things done" as well as being "an enormously ambitious and ruthless operator". But other words used to describe him include "arrogant" and "plain ruler". He should go far.

MICHAEL LEAPMAN



TO ADVERTISE CALL  
0171 481 4481

## MEDIA & MARKETING

FAX:  
0171 782 7826

### Sales Executives - Telecommunications

Infonet is a well established leading international telecommunication services provider with a seamless global network of both people and technology and an impressive rate of profitable growth. To build on their existing customer base they are seeking to recruit people to develop New Business across the United Kingdom:

**The Services:**

- ◆ Infonet offer the following range of Global Services:
- ◆ Frame Relay & X.25
- ◆ Internet & Intranet
- ◆ Managed Voice and Voice Over Frame Relay
- ◆ LAN to LAN & Remote Access
- ◆ Electronic Commerce & Messaging

**Qualifications:**

- ◆ The ideal Candidate should have the following skills:
- ◆ Minimum 3 Years Success in "Solutions Selling"
- ◆ New Business Sales Experience
- ◆ Knowledge of the Telecommunications Markets
- ◆ Drive & Enthusiasm
- ◆ Good Communication & Presentation Skills

### Technical Sales Support - Telecommunications

We are also looking to recruit an experienced Sales Support Executive to work closely with the sales team and customers to understand requirements, design proposals and provide a high level of technical support and advice to Infonet customers and prospects. Educated to degree level you should have an in depth telecommunications technical background and be "Customer Facing".

Infonet offer you an unparalleled opportunity to join a rapidly expanding customer driven organisation and to realise your true potential. Extremely competitive remuneration packages are offered with no upper limit and usual big company benefits. Full product training will be provided in California.

**infonet**

http://www.infonet.com

Send your CV including salary expectations to our advising Consultants:  
Venator International Limited  
Albany House, Market Street, Madderhead, Berkshire SL6 8DC  
Email: apply@venatorinternational.com Fax: 01628-622512  
Web Site: http://www.venatorinternational.com

### Fast-Track to Your Success

Octagon provides major organisations, such as Cable & Wireless and Bosch, with elite teams focused on new business acquisition. We represent a genuine opportunity for high quality individuals to fast-track into positions that are closed to those without three years extensive industry and commercial experience.

An intensive residential programme prepares you for the high levels of performance expected by our clients.

At Octagon, you will be immersed in an innovative, energetic and driven culture, focused around your accelerated development and achievement of personal goals. The experience gained through this programme creates an awesome platform for your ultimate success.

If you would like to know more about this unique opportunity, write to:

Octagon, Holborn Tower, 137-144 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PL.  
Alternatively, call James or Val on our number, at any time:

0845 070 8000

Applicants will ideally be aged 21-30



We have over 80,000 representatives visiting our 40 million customers worldwide. Having reached Britain we are now seeking additional recruits to join our independent.

**TEAM OF SALES REPRESENTATIVES**

If you are self-motivated and ambitious, able to work on your own initiative, have excellent communication and presentation skills contact us immediately. Previous sales experience beneficial but not necessary. We will provide full training. Join Zepter sales forces and have an exciting and rewarding challenge. For an application form write or phone:

**Zepter International (UK) Ltd.**  
Sales Department Stamford  
House, 2/4 Chiswick High Road,  
London W4 1TH.  
Tel: 0181 847 3617.

**SALES EXECUTIVES**  
A Rare Opportunity in Credit Insurance Management

Cimco, The Credit Insurance Management Company is rapidly expanding and requires permanent sales personnel for London & Home Counties, South Midlands and Anglia regions.

The Cimco service is designed for the small to medium sized business market for companies trading with domestic and/or export customers. It features rapid underwriting and easy administration together with generous indemnity. It can also be linked with debtor management and funding facilities where required.

During the past 5 years, Cimco has developed to become the leading product of its kind and is underwritten by Coface the world's largest private Credit Insurance provider.

If you have proven skills in Trade Finance Services or Credit Management and enjoy the rewards of success we're ready to offer you an attractive salary, incentives and the opportunity to develop a long term career.

If you would like to be part of an exciting and challenging working environment please send your CV and a covering letter, with details of your current salary package and any other relevant information to the address below. For an informal chat to find out more, please feel free to call:

David Mullen or Nick Flux  
CIMCO  
Langley Place, 99 Langley Road  
WATFORD, Herts WD1 3PE  
Tel: 01923 476105 Fax: 01923 478101  
Email: personnel@cimco.co.uk

**Travel Marketing Director, UK**

**Location:** North West England  
**Salary:** Excellent plus executive benefits package

Our client is the recognised leader in its specialist field of tour operating and continues to grow both its market share and product range through acquisition and new product development. The structured growth to date can be attributed to the strategic and commercial focus of the senior management team. In order to ensure the company's continued expansion the appointment of a successor to the Marketing Director is now essential.

Working closely with the UK Board and its European counterparts, the role will take full responsibility for the UK marketing and sales initiatives for the existing four consumer brands. The role requires a commercial marketer with a strong bias towards direct marketing to ensure the timely delivery of brochures, direct response advertising campaigns, direct mail, sales promotions and all press and public relations activities.

The ideal candidate will possess all or most of the following:

- A demonstrable record of success gained within a senior marketing position ideally within a travel environment. A minimum of 10 years experience is essential
- Excellent understanding and knowledge of direct marketing and database management
- A sound understanding of financial functions, forecasting and budgetary management
- The team management skills to both lead and direct a talented team of 20 marketing professionals
- A good all round knowledge of information technology and electronic distribution systems and the important part they play in increased sales as well as yield and capacity management
- A tertiary qualification
- Further qualification gained in marketing or direct marketing
- Fluency in one or more European languages would be an advantage but not essential

This is an exceptional opportunity to join this award winning tour operation at senior level with the real ability to influence the overall expansion of the organisation.

Please reply in strictest confidence by December 21st with full resume & salary details to Kristina Wallen, Managing Director.

22 Stephenson Way, London, NW1 2AB  
Fax 0171 367 2828  
Telephone 0171 351 1000

**HARIP wallen**  
EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT

**Trainee Ops Exec £23k**  
Business Communications

Valid project work in multi discipline environments. Award UK A international seminars. See Graduate with up to 3 yrs commercial industrial exp. First class interpersonal and presentation skills. Analytical and problem solving ability.

0171 224 3096 SHS Bureau

**How To Make £30,000 p.a. Freelance Writing**

This free 104-page letter from the Marns College of Journalism shows you exactly how. Obtain your free copy now! Call Free: 0800 371 500

**ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:**

BOX No. ....  
c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS  
P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST, LONDON, E1 9GA



Discriminating and loyal: by concentrating so much firepower on the young, editors are in danger of alienating millions of readers such as these

# Who needs the young?

A highly pertinent question was put to regional newspaper editors at their recent Guild conference by David Gledhill, Editor of the *Bath Chronicle*: "When did your front page last invite readers to have their best orgasm ever?"

He was explaining why he had decided that the quest for young readers was "pointless and fruitless". It alienated existing readers and was money and manpower wasted. The time to catch new readers was when they were settling down, buying a car and looking for a home. "And what are we offering that age group? Too often we are rubbing their noses into the fact they are no longer so young by offering them news of gigs which attract 15, 16 and 17-year-olds."

What mattered to the young never changed. It was sex, drugs and music — and magazines such as *Mix* and *Bliss*, *GQ*, *Loaded* and *FHM* met their needs, as in the search for the perfect orgasm. All the editors Gledhill has met since then have confirmed that they, too, have been nagged by the same question.

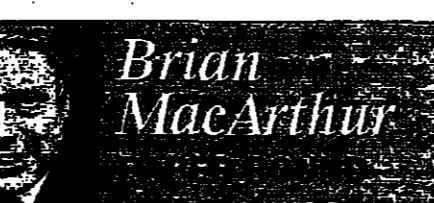
That is because every editor — and even more their marketing directors — is obsessed by youth. Study the front pages of the papers and somewhere up at the top will usually be a plug aimed at young readers or women, especially women. The argument for youth is fa-

miliar. Newspaper sales are dropping. Old readers are, inevitably, going to die. So new readers must be gained every year simply to stay level. Win younger readers and they may stay loyal for 30 to 40 years. So far, so compelling. But do newspapers now seem old-fashioned to young readers reared since the cradle on television as their main news medium?

"They don't read, they're not interested in politics, they don't go to the opera or theatre and they don't like heavy-weight articles asking Whither Nato", as Alan Rusbridger, Editor of *The Guardian*, said last year. "They're post-modern, post-serious, post-literate... and post-broadsheet. We either adjust to meet them halfway... or become extinct."

Adjusting to meet the young halfway is exactly what the broadsheets have been doing successfully for the past decade, maintaining their core sections of comment and analysis and adding new sections, often tabloids, aimed at young readers, devoted to such areas as pop, rock, film and IT.

The big broadsheets, moreover, can appeal to all ages, by introducing comics for children, entertainment sections for younger readers and an array of sections devoted to sport, travel or pensions with appeal to every age group.



Brian MacArthur

It is politically incorrect to say so, but by concentrating so much editorial firepower on the young, editors are in danger of alienating millions of potentially loyal readers. Within 20 years, as Professor Richard Scase, of Kent University, pointed out at the same conference, one in four of the population will be over 65 — and they will be living longer, with money to spend.

"Not only are the number of teenagers declining, but for them brand loyalty just doesn't exist," according to Saga's strategic planning director, Tim Bull. He forecasts that such a demographic trend means that there will be 7.5 million more over-55s by 2020.

It was my first sight of the *Saga Magazine* which provoked this column. It will be selling more than a million copies a month in the new year and is a mind-provoking success. Year-on-year, its advertising is up 30 per cent, pagination has been expanded to cope — there were 162 pages last month — and there are up to eight advertising inserts in each issue, suggesting that advertisers sense a good market among the over-50s.

Bull's experience is that although it is more difficult to persuade the sophisticated under-50s to sample a new product, if they enjoy its quality and value there is a much greater chance that they will remain loyal than the promiscuous under-35s.

Editors will discover the truth of that comment in the National Readership Survey, which shows a drop of 548,000 among under-24-year-old readers in the past two years, against a fall of 126,000 among the over-55s. On Saturdays, the biggest-selling day of the week, there are 69,000 new over-55s reading national newspapers. Among the under-24s, readership has dropped by nearly 400,000.

One index of a newspaper's health still remains the under-24s it has recruited. On that index, the most successful national papers are the *Daily Star* (26 per cent), *The Sun* (20), *The Guardian* and *The Times* (16), *The Independent* (15) and *The Mirror* (14). *The Daily Telegraph* has the lowest proportion, at 9 per cent.

Yet if older readers represent an opportunity instead of a threat, three newspapers are in their debt. *The Daily Mail*, which has shown the highest growth in sales over the past two years, has increased readership among the over-55s by 130,000 in the past two years.

Over-the-counter sales of *The Daily Telegraph* are only 682,000, swelled by prepaid subscription sales of 272,000, mainly among older readers, and 60,000 sold at less than the cover price, or given away. Without those oldies, its top-line sale would fall below a million.

The same story holds for *The Express*, with over-the-counter sales of 621,000, swelled by about 175,000 sold at a cheap rate, or given away. Both have lost young and gained older readers.

"Abandon the holy grail of youth," Gledhill, 39, urged his fellow editors. "They are an ungrateful bunch who will drink your free beer, dance on your free club tickets and then vomit behind your sofa before abandoning you without a word of thanks." Is anybody listening out there?

casts that such a demographic trend means that there will be 7.5 million more over-55s by 2020.

It was my first sight of the *Saga Magazine* which provoked this column. It will be selling more than a million copies a month in the new year and is a mind-provoking success. Year-on-year, its advertising is up 30 per cent, pagination has been expanded to cope — there were 162 pages last month — and there are up to eight advertising inserts in each issue, suggesting that advertisers sense a good market among the over-50s.

Bull's experience is that although it is more difficult to persuade the sophisticated under-50s to sample a new product, if they enjoy its quality and value there is a much greater chance that they will remain loyal than the promiscuous under-35s.

Editors will discover the truth of that comment in the National Readership Survey, which shows a drop of 548,000 among under-24-year-old readers in the past two years, against a fall of 126,000 among the over-55s. On Saturdays, the biggest-selling day of the week, there are 69,000 new over-55s reading national newspapers. Among the under-24s, readership has dropped by nearly 400,000.

One index of a newspaper's health still remains the under-24s it has recruited. On that index, the most successful national papers are the *Daily Star* (26 per cent), *The Sun* (20), *The Guardian* and *The Times* (16), *The Independent* (15) and *The Mirror* (14). *The Daily Telegraph* has the lowest proportion, at 9 per cent.

Yet if older readers represent an opportunity instead of a threat, three newspapers are in their debt. *The Daily Mail*, which has shown the highest growth in sales over the past two years, has increased readership among the over-55s by 130,000 in the past two years.

Over-the-counter sales of *The Daily Telegraph* are only 682,000, swelled by prepaid subscription sales of 272,000, mainly among older readers, and 60,000 sold at less than the cover price, or given away. Without those oldies, its top-line sale would fall below a million.

The same story holds for *The Express*, with over-the-counter sales of 621,000, swelled by about 175,000 sold at a cheap rate, or given away. Both have lost young and gained older readers.

"Abandon the holy grail of youth," Gledhill, 39, urged his fellow editors. "They are an ungrateful bunch who will drink your free beer, dance on your free club tickets and then vomit behind your sofa before abandoning you without a word of thanks." Is anybody listening out there?

health still remains the under-24s it has recruited. On that index, the most successful national papers are the *Daily Star* (26 per cent), *The Sun* (20), *The Guardian* and *The Times* (16), *The Independent* (15) and *The Mirror* (14). *The Daily Telegraph* has the lowest proportion, at 9 per cent.

Yet if older readers represent an opportunity instead of a threat, three newspapers are in their debt. *The Daily Mail*, which has shown the highest growth in sales over the past two years, has increased readership among the over-55s by 130,000 in the past two years.

Over-the-counter sales of *The Daily Telegraph* are only 682,000, swelled by prepaid subscription sales of 272,000, mainly among older readers, and 60,000 sold at less than the cover price, or given away. Without those oldies, its top-line sale would fall below a million.

The same story holds for *The Express*, with over-the-counter sales of 621,000, swelled by about 175,000 sold at a cheap rate, or given away. Both have lost young and gained older readers.

"Abandon the holy grail of youth," Gledhill, 39, urged his fellow editors. "They are an ungrateful bunch who will drink your free beer, dance on your free club tickets and then vomit behind your sofa before abandoning you without a word of thanks." Is anybody listening out there?

# To live and die by the PR sword

IS MARTIN Taylor — the Barclays chief executive who quit last week — a PR genius or a PR disaster? Is he — as put to me by one leading financial public relations executive — a sharp operator for jumping before he was pushed?

Or is he — in the opinion of another pro-in-the-know — a PR department's nightmare who shot from the hip so many times while at Barclays that he finally ran out of bullets.

As a banker friend remarked: "If you live by the PR sword, you die by it" — which is more true of the conservative world of banking than of other media-obsessed industries such as football, politics or Max Clifford's jilted celebrities.

Two months ago I would have agreed with the first statement and disagreed with the second. Taylor appeared to astutely handle the not insignificant matter of a £250 million provision for bank loans in Russia at Barclays Capital, his troubled investment banking subsidiary.

Taylor took control with a series of punchy newspaper interviews. He described the discovery of the loss as "maddening", though the *FT* later alleged that he chaired the credit committee that had approved the investment in the first place. And when Barclays got sucked into the £2.2 billion Long Term Capital Management bail-out, he was at it again, issuing a warning about the need to "put a discipline" on Barclays Capital "to keep it lean and make it think harder".

None of this broke the fall of the Barclays share price (£19.18 in July and 86p in mid-September) but shareholders sure knew who was in charge. I wondered at the time, since Mr Taylor was a Treasury adviser on tax and benefits, whether the strategy had come out of a new Labour PR manual.

In the welter of recriminations following his departure, I no longer believe that Taylor is the Peter Mandelson of banking.

The prime objection of disgruntled board members was that Taylor was in the habit of telling journalists of his plans before the board had agreed them. This is a perfectly acceptable practice in many companies and organisations which are led from the front, but is bound to be all too exciting for a bank blessed with not one knight on its board but four.

It also emerged that his relationship with the board had been deteriorating for a year and he had threatened to resign on a number of occa-

sions. This suggested that the regular airing of his plans in the Sunday press — whether by him or an acolyte — were marks of his frustration rather than part of a coherent strategy.

The final nail in Taylor's coffin — so it was claimed — was a story in *The Sunday Telegraph* floating plans for a demerger of Barclays' retail and corporate arm. But it emerged that the story may have been placed by an enemy so that Taylor would be blamed for leaking again, an old Whitehall trick.

Nell Bennett, city editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, insisted that Taylor had not leaked that or any of the other apparently well-sourced stories dropped on the paper in previous months. Bennett argued: "Taylor is admirably frank and honest when asked a question, but tip-offs and nods and winks are not his style."

Whatever the truth, a picture has emerged of a man who in the midst of a crisis turned to the media to promote ideas that were being blocked at a higher level. That is no way to win hearts and minds.

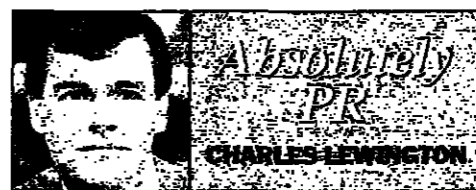
THE over-blown Lord Mandelson of Rio story brought to mind an incident during the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil.

When a number of diplomats, environment department officials and journalists (myself included) ventured to a nightclub of doubtful repute. While there were no activities of the kind described in *Punch*, one official had his glasses knocked off by a pair of shapely buttocks, and a journalist returned to the Copacabana Hotel with his balding head covered in red lipstick.

We marvelled at the speed with which (grossly exaggerated) reports of the evening were relayed back to the Ambassador and the then Prime Minister's entourage. It only goes to show that the notion that the master of spin would go to any club in Rio is a ludicrous one. It would have been absolutely disastrous PR.

THE DIY PR award of the week must go to the driver of the Victoria Line Tube train stuck at Stockwell at 9.45am on Wednesday. Faced with a customer relations crisis, the driver realised that only a team effort could provide a quick fix. So he asked, over the loudspeaker, whether there was a carpenter on board with a hammer in his bag to help "get this thing moving".

Charles Lewington is chairman of Media Strategy



Charles Lewington is chairman of Media Strategy

# A pop devolution

Struggling rap artists from Anglesey and wannabe boy bands from Tisbury may take note. Radio 1 is offering the opportunity of a lifetime.

In a clever PR move, the BBC is leaping aboard the home-rule bandwagon by devolving part of its schedule.

In a move designed to showcase musical talent from all corners of Britain, listeners in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England will be able to tune into separate shows from early next year.

These "opt-out programmes" will be based in Cardiff, Glasgow and Belfast, and promise to spotlight musicians with the talent to follow in the footsteps of bands such as Catatonia (from Wales), Texas (Scotland) and The Undertones (Northern Ireland).

A leaked BBC document en-

strenuously denied — that the BBC was downgrading middle-class radio in favour of pop.

The latest news will almost certainly anger commercial radio groups which depend on audience loyalty in the regions and have succeeded in turning listeners away from Radio 1.

But the report indicates that BBC executives are already committed to the idea. "At a time of devolution, (they) will strengthen Radio 1's service to the nations," it says.

The programmes are destined for the 8pm to 10pm slot on Thursdays. As one record company executive put it: "If you are playing for £40 a night in some provincial backwater and you get the chance to go on Radio 1, it will be better than winning the lottery."

CAROL MIDGLEY

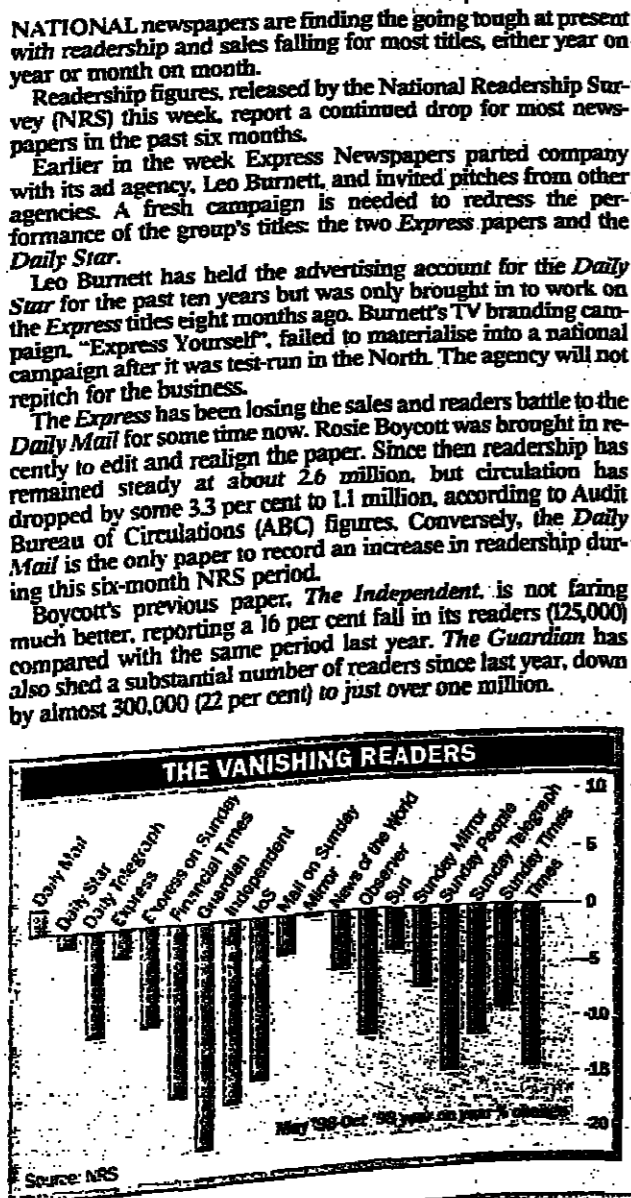
strenuously denied — that the BBC was downgrading middle-class radio in favour of pop.

The latest news will almost certainly anger commercial radio groups which depend on audience loyalty in the regions and have succeeded in turning listeners away from Radio 1.

But the report indicates that BBC executives are already committed to the idea. "At a time of devolution, (they) will strengthen Radio 1's service to the nations," it says.

The programmes are destined for the 8pm to 10pm slot on Thursdays. As one record company executive put it: "If you are playing for £40 a night in some provincial backwater and you get the chance to go on Radio 1, it will be better than winning the lottery."

CAROL MIDGLEY





The new face of Ferrero Rocher: not bad enough to be a cult hit, just an example of terrible pan-European advertising

## It's not quite bad enough to be a cult ad

■ IT IS an advertising tragedy comparable only with the axing of Bruce Forsyth as the Courts' judge and Lesley Joseph from *Somerfield*. Ferrero Rocher has cancelled the ambassador's party.

Along with the Tango and Bird's Eye illuminations in London's Regent Street, and speculation about the Christmas Number One, the sight of that sweet old butler balancing his pyramid of golden chocolates on a silver salver is an important signpost to the imminent religious festival.

We know the chocolates are "excellente" and that the ambassador spoils us by serving them. Although the string orchestra never learnt another tune, there was comfort in an annual party with the same food and music.

The guests changed, of course. Some time during the mid-Nineties the ambassador

invited a more ethnically diverse bunch of dignitaries. Luckily, it seemed the post set the world over loved unwrapping that gold paper.

But now — disaster. A house party, for God's sake. OK, not just any old house, but one with porticos and a great gravel drive. And not just any old party, but a "build a Ferrero Rocher pyramid Christmas tree party". You know the sort.

Actually, you probably don't. If it wasn't for the tinny sound of the updated background music you could have stumbled into a porn movie, such is the extraordinary soft-focus filmic style. Dazzled by the family's



Stefano Hatfield

gleaming dentures, you too can gasp as they build the chocolate tree, sigh wistfully as our new hostess bites into a Ferrero and murmurs with pleasure, and chuckle as the husband attempts to steal the top-most chocolate.

Sadly, it's not quite bad enough to be a cult hit. It is merely a classic example of pan-European advertising, at its worst. It is difficult to understand why it has to be so bad. Confectionery brands have a history of fine advertising in the UK. It's too simplistic to say they're bad just because they are created by Ferrero in-house.

The Gap makes its own ads, which are spot-on. Ferrero's success is partly down to its excellent distribution, and partly the consistent level of advertising spend (about £3 million between now and Christmas) behind the brand.

The only answer to the "but they work" argument is: if the ads were better, they'd work still more effectively. The campaign to bring back the ambassador and his butler starts here.

■ "DAN WHO?" has been the reaction to the news that Snyder Communications, the fast-growing American marketing services group run by the 33-year-old Dan Snyder, has acquired Partners BDDH for approximately £16 million. Partners BDDH has had a turbulent two-year history, but is a respected, mid-sized agency with a client list headed by BT, Mercedes, the Co-operative organisation and *The Guardian*. It has been courted

by several acquisitive American agency groups anxious to bolster their struggling London outposts. Snyder built up a \$550-million revenue company in eight years by specialising in database marketing and healthcare marketing services, attracting many of America's blue-chip companies as clients.

In March he bought his first mainstream ad agency, the Boston-based Arnold Communications, for \$120 million. Suddenly the rest of the advertising community sat up and took notice. This week he acquired BDDH, like Arnold and others, through a share-swap scheme.

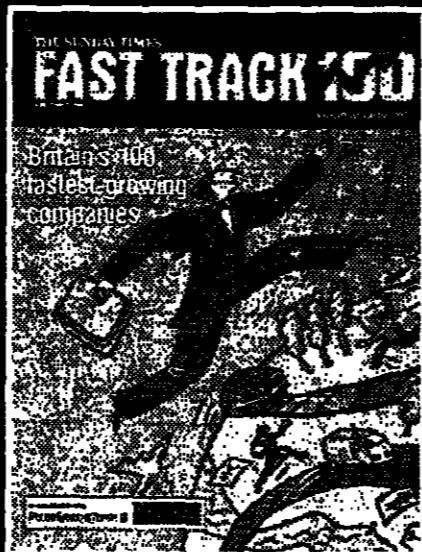
Snyder's growth has led to comparisons with WPP and Martin Sorrell. Perhaps, although Snyder earns some two-thirds of his revenues in America. This is one of the most interesting of the recent spate of agency acquisitions. You will hear a lot more about Dan Snyder.

■ TWO WEEKS ago, when *The Independent* fired Lowe Howard-Spink, I explained why newspapers make such terrible advertising clients. It's largely due to the expectations they have of what advertising should achieve, and how this differs from their agencies' ambitions. This week Express Newspapers underlined my point by firing Leo Burnett. Neither side will comment, but privately the Express group finds Leo Burnett lacks creativity, and the agency believes the client unwilling to commit sufficient funds to support the branding campaign it claims to want. Just like every other split between a newspaper and its agency, then.

● Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign

### THE SUNDAY TIMES

# The next millennium's millionaires.



Don't miss your free 32-page Fast Track 100 guide in *The Sunday Times* this Sunday, giving you an exclusive insight into the 100 fastest growing unquoted companies in Britain today.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

## More sport and definitely no flares

ITV2 will skip to a younger beat, says Raymond Snoddy

Brian Barwick is a man endlessly in love with his job, who, unlike many television executives, enjoys watching popular television for his own pleasure. "I love TV and I watch a lot of it. I have the taste of an ordinary bloke and like programmes such as *Noel's House Party* and *Casualty*," says Barwick, a Liverpudlian who is about to indulge himself even more.

On Monday, Barwick — after 18 years at the BBC — will launch ITV2, the commercial network's first new channel since 1955. ITV2, available on digital terrestrial television and on analogue cable, is aimed at a "slightly younger" audience than ITV and will "skip to a younger beat". Barwick, 44, who is also head of sport at ITV, knows exactly what the new channel will not be. "This is not going to be an archive channel," he says. "There will be no perms, bell-bottoms or flares unless they come into fashion again."

Barwick, the director of programmes at ITV2, was lured to the ITV Network Centre — which commissions all ITV's national programmes — after just missing out on the position of BBC1 controller. As the BBC's head of sport, he believed he was on a losing wicket anyway after the corporation lost the rights to ITV of such central sports events as Formula One motor racing and the FA Cup Final. "I felt someone was going to end up as King Canute at BBC Sport and I didn't want it to be me," says Barwick, who adds that it was the cocktail of ITV jobs — running sport and launching the new channel — that finally took him away from the BBC.

In the mixed, rather than thematic, schedule of ITV2, he can display the range of his skills. Sport, for instance, will be given "a chance to breathe" because more time is available, plus ITV has rights to more events than it can possibly show. Next week, for instance, when Manchester United faces Bayern Munich at Old Trafford in the Champions League, Arsenal fans will be able to watch their team play Panathinaikos in Greece. When ITV has a big boxing

match, ITV2 will be able to show other fights from the same bill. And ITV2 will carry 17 of next year's Rugby World Cup games that are not being broadcast by ITV.

The channel, Barwick says, gives ITV some of the flexibility of the BBC by having two channels to schedule in a complementary way. ITV2 is launched on Monday night at 7pm with a one-hour special variety show aimed at showcasing what the channel will offer. It will feature footballer-cum-television personality Ian Wright, comedian Michael Barrymore, newscaster Trevor McDonald (who will have his own chat show),



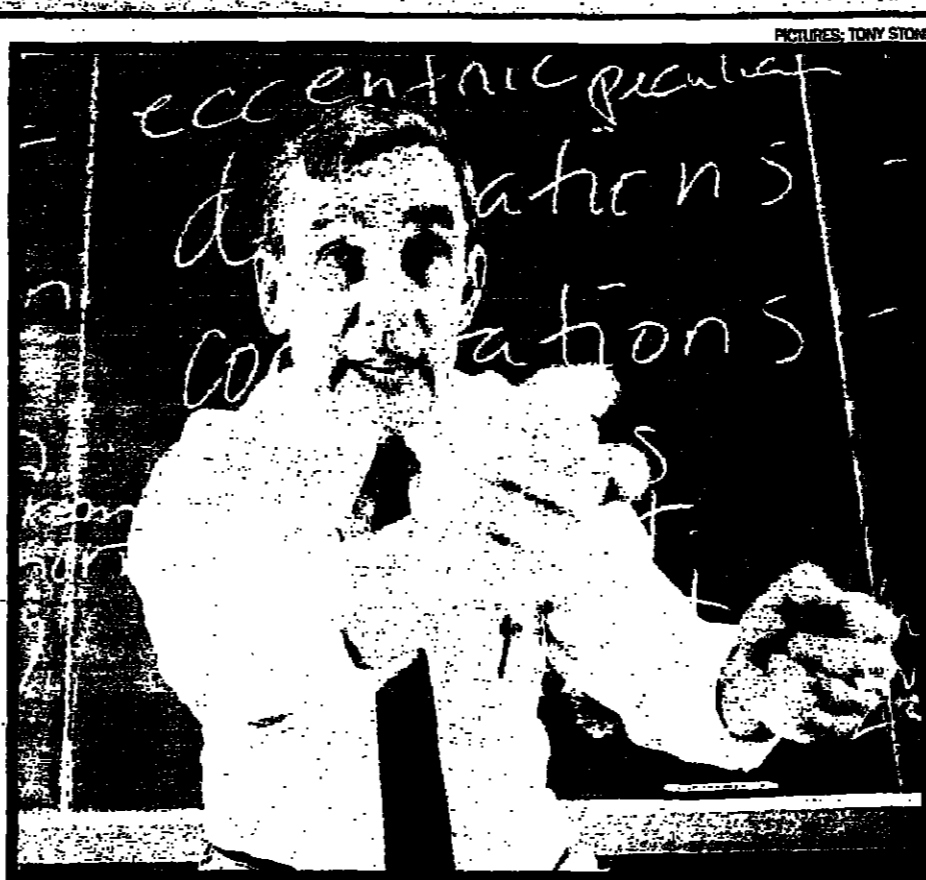
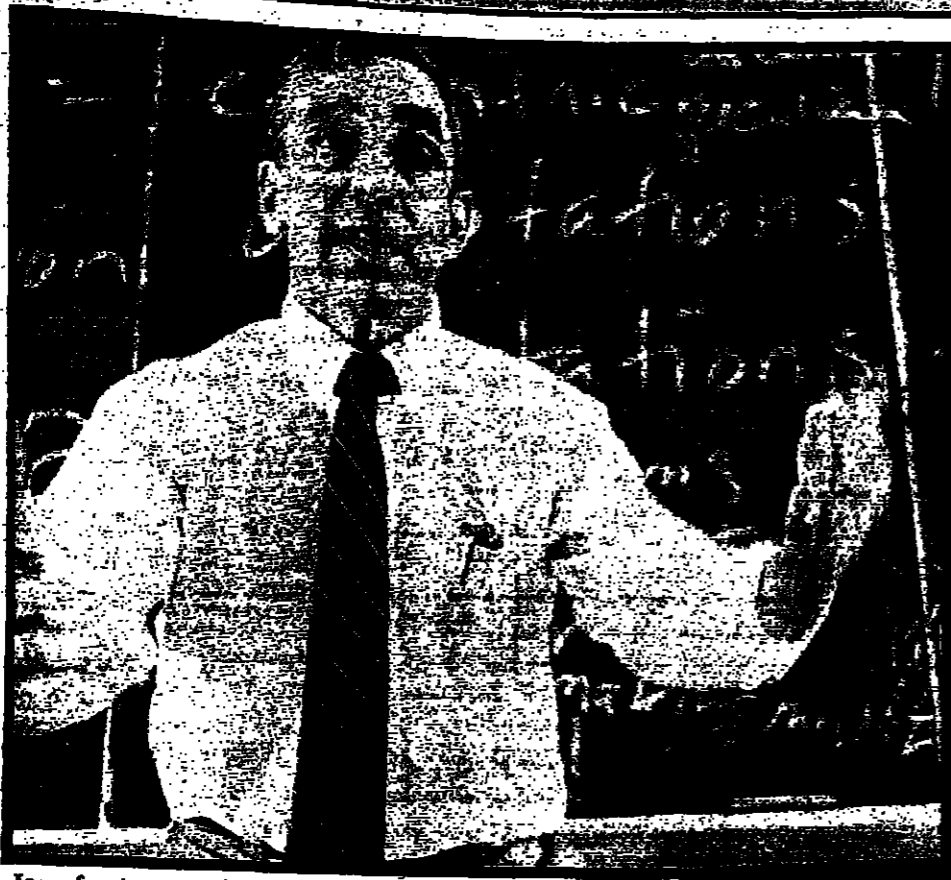
Sign of the times: ITV2 logo

sports host Gabby Yorath and the entire casts of both *Coronation Street* and *Emmerdale*.

ITV is spending modestly on launching the new channel, with a £20-million-a-year budget, compared with about £600 million for the parent station. Few homes will get digital terrestrial TV at first — thousands not hundreds of thousands — but from day one, ITV2 will be part of Cable & Wireless's basic £9.99-a-month package in 850,000 homes. The cable company Telewest is expected to start transmitting the channel in the new year, and talks are also under way with NTL.

ITV2 will screen 4pm to 2am on weekdays, 9.30am to 2am on weekends. It will buy 1,100 hours of new programmes, ranging from *Bedrock*, a daily teenage magazine show, to *I Suppose You Think That's Funny*, a comedy quiz show.

THE TIMES  
EDUCATION



Is up-front necessarily outstanding? The teacher who looked most effective to the assessor was the one who got the highest grading, so the enthusiastic teacher gets the higher rating

# Why heads cannot rate staff

Performance-related assessment is inaccurate, says Tony Mooney

Whether they like it or not, head teachers are being forced to appraise their staff in a way that has never been required before. They are already under pressure to weed out incompetent teachers and it seems likely that they will be asked to decide which teachers should receive more pay.

Yesterday's Green Paper on the teaching profession proposed that schools receive extra cash for improving examination results or reducing truancy and expulsion numbers. Head teachers will then have to decide which of their teachers should get higher salaries as a result of a school being awarded the extra money.

Although head teachers will be subject to external checks, how they go about making their decisions will be scrutinised by both teachers and their unions. If head teachers are to link payments simply to subject or class examination results, they will have to decide just how far back they go in a

school's history. Do they give the money to teachers who taught pupils in their final year before an exam, or do they go back further to reward other teachers who have influenced the results?

Most head teachers are likely to take the view that awarding money on examination results alone will be fraught with danger. Instead they will embark on a programme of classroom observations to judge the effectiveness of teachers before they start handing out the extra cash. However, head teachers who think that classroom observation alone is a sound way of judging the effectiveness of teachers are in for a big shock.

Head teachers are notoriously bad at judging whether their teachers' classroom performance is a predictor of their effectiveness, and research proving this has been consistent down through the years. Even when judgments are

made formal — by asking heads to grade teachers by numbers on a list of characteristics believed to be related to teacher effectiveness — heads have been found to be way off beam. These multifactor rating scales are used by Ofsted inspectors and have been around since 1915, but when head teachers use them they are only slightly more accurate than when picking out an effective teacher by pure chance.

American researchers have long been interested in measuring teacher effectiveness and one of the most illuminating studies concerning head teacher inadequacy in this area was conducted by Donald Medley, of the University of Virginia, and Homer Coker, of Georgia State University.

They studied the judgments of 46 principals who graded 322 primary teachers in 87 groups. Teacher effectiveness was judged in reading and

arithmetic and was estimated from students' pre-test scores (obtained at the start of the school year) and post-test scores (from the end of the same school year) on two standardised achievement tests. The results confirmed much of the work that had been done before. They found that the correlation between the average principal's rating of teacher performance and the direct measures of teacher effectiveness to be 0.20, a result so near to zero as to make sticking pins into a list of names almost as useful.

Of their findings, the researchers wrote: "What is particularly striking about this is its consistency with the findings of earlier studies, and the clear implication that the negative findings of the earlier studies cannot be blamed on any limitations in instrumentation or methodology. This re-

search provides no support whatever for the widely held belief that the principal is a good judge of teacher performance."

But why are head teachers such bad predictors of teacher effectiveness?

The main reason is due to what has, since the 1920s, been known as the "halo effect". This ensures that the teacher who looks most effective to the rater is the one who gets the highest grading.

So the attractive, outgoing teacher who is teaching from the front of the class always gets the high ratings.

The less flamboyant teacher who quietly gets around to all his or her pupils is less likely to catch the judge's eye as being effective.

So it would appear that introducing a "payment by results" system for teachers that relies on head teacher judgments could be fatally flawed from the outset.

As Medley and Coker observe: "Experience gained in the process-product research indicates that it is far more difficult to make objective and accurate observations of the behaviour of teachers and students than is generally realised."

Most of the American research now points to the fact that it is important to use as many different sources of data as possible when making judgments about teachers.

Good teaching is a complex issue and all teachers cannot be evaluated by identical procedures.

Identifying good teachers effectively, to pay them more money, will take large amounts of time and money in training and data collection.

The Government is opening up a whole new can of worms and, if we wish to avoid many of our head teachers appearing in courts defending themselves against discrimination charges, then the lid ought to be closed firmly and as quickly as possible.

# Taking the time for pupil progress

The ignominious fate of the index which was supposed to measure progress between 14 and 16 in this week's league tables has underlined yet again how hard it will be for any government to introduce an accurate measure of the value added by schools.

Supporters as well as critics of the current exercise would like to see allowance made for differing intakes. When the tables were first published, value added used to be about making allowance for social deprivation.

surely, because it is the key interval for parents or the most revealing for schools.

Ofsted reports consistently cite the early years of secondary education as the time when children's progress falters. The best teachers are often concentrated in the pre-GCSE years, and choosing this period as the one by which progress is judged can only encourage this trend.

Two years is, in any case, a very short time in which to judge the progress of children who spend at least five years at a school. Comparisons of GCSE and A-level results make sense because teenagers have the option of moving for the sixth-form, but the interval which really interests parents is between entry and exit. It will not be possible to do this calculation for at least two more years, but substituting a misleading one is no answer.

Assessing development is more complicated than it seems. The widely-publicised research showing state school pupils achieving better degree results than those from independent schools illustrated the point perfectly. Should the independent sector be congratulated for getting weaker candidates into good universities, or castigated for not preparing them properly?

If the baseline for the comparison had been GCSE scores, let alone 11-year-olds' test results, the outcome would probably have been very different. It all depends on where you start.



John O'Leary

# When failing is neither a flaw nor a fair label

Statistics can mask the truth behind a school's pupils, says Phil Hutchinson

You can imagine how shocked I was on Tuesday morning when some of our Year 11 pupils (16-year-olds) said to me, "Sir, we are in *The Times* as one of the most failing schools in the country."

Their disbelief was, for me, a positive point, for only three weeks before I had congratulated everyone on a successful visit from Her Majesty's Inspectors that highlighted our substantial progress.

I immediately looked in *The Times*, to verify the information I had been given and it was there. We were in a table headed "Highest Failure Rate". This table had been compiled according to the percentage of pupils who had left the school with no GCSE passes and on that basis the table showed that we had a rating of 26 per cent. While accurate, what the table did not show was that actually only 1 per cent of our pupils left with no passes; all but two of the 26 per cent without passes will take their GCSEs next year.

Recently, the local television news ran a story about an independent school where everyone was upset that their published GCSE 5 A\*-C percentage rate would be in the high eighties, when the real figure was actually in the high nineties.

The discrepancy was caused by a flaw in the method used to compile the figures.

In January each year a census is taken in every school that includes the number of pupils of Year 11 age (the GCSE year). That figure is used as the baseline measurement for all published examination figures.

The argument put forward by the independent school was that they had a small number



St Augustine's HMI visit highlighted school's progress

of pupils who were of Year 11 age but for various reasons were in Year 10 and this mitigated against them.

So, here I sit, hurt that, hard on the heels of a successful HMI visit, I am part of an establishment which supposedly has a high failure rate. Is that really so? What the table omitted to mention was that there were 102 children in our Year 11 group in the summer, but there were 127 children of Year 11 age in the school. Most of the 25 "missing" children were of Year 11 age, but were actually in the year below and will take their GCSE examinations next year.

Why? The vast majority of them arrived in this country late in their school careers speaking either little or no English. Time has to be given to such pupils in order that they can learn sufficient English to be taught the other subjects. Usually this means that they are put in the year below their chronological group, yet they count against us in the published tables.

Let me put it another way. Each year 20 per cent of our pupils will fail to obtain a GCSE under the current method of publication.

Almost 60 per cent of our pupils do not have English as their first language; many are refugees who arrive traumatised in an alien country. As a result, the population mobility in my area is extremely high. Less than 70 per cent of our pupils complete their full five years of compulsory education in one school. Nevertheless the majority of our pupils succeed.

Recently, with the aid of an interpreter, I interviewed a boy who had just arrived in this country as a refugee from a war zone. He is of Year 11 age, but speaks no English. Obviously he cannot take his GCSEs this summer. Politically, I should turn him away. He will count against us in next year's figures, though he will take his exams at a later date and probably do well.

When tables were first planned, the figures were calculated as a percentage of the pupils entered for examinations. That was too easy to manipulate; you simply don't enter those you expect to fail, thus ensuring a good pass rate. The Government rightly tried to find a better way and came up with the idea that using all pupils of Year 11 age would be fairer. Well, it isn't. Why not use the number of children who are actually in Year 11 as the base figure?

We have a dilemma at our school when we interview prospective pupils; should we admit them and ruin our statistics or should we deny them their education and protect ourselves? For the sake of those children, the method of calculation must be changed.

And by the way, the refugee boy I interviewed — he starts on Monday.

© The author is head of St Augustine's school, Westminster, London.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

# ENJOY A EUROPEAN BREAK FROM JUST £24 PER PERSON



See Weekend tomorrow for full details and Token 1

CHANGING TIMES

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 680 6800

EDUCATION

FAX: 0171 782 7899

BUSINESS COURSES

**DISTANCE LEARNING AND FULL-TIME**

**CHANGE YOUR APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT**

- The Leicester MBA
- MSC in Marketing or Finance
- Diploma in Management
- Certificate in Management

A full range of distance learning programmes is available. Telephone 0800 374024 (UK only) for an information pack (24 hrs) or 01203 422422 to speak to a Consultant. RSI FREEPOST (198) CV2472 Coventry CV4 6BR, UK. Fax 01203 422422 email: LUMC@le.ac.uk http://www.le.ac.uk/lumc/

**Leicester University**  
Promoting excellence in University teaching and research

**rdi**  
Management Centre

**University of Hull**  
*Executive MBA*  
in London

The University of Hull MBA degree studied in Greenwich.

Specialisations:  
Management  
Marketing Management  
Health Services Management

- 24 month duration (18 weekend modules)
- Flexible starting dates

15 minutes by Network Southeast from Charing Cross, Waterloo or London Bridge, or through the Greenwich foot tunnel from Island Gardens (Docklands Light Railway).

Greenwich School of Management  
Meridian House, Royal Hill, Greenwich, London, SE10 8RD  
Tel: 0181-516 7800  
email: enquiry@greenwich-college.ac.uk  
http://www.greenwich-college.ac.uk

**Greenwich School of Management**  
university business education

**COURSES**

**Computeach and the Skills Crisis**

Right now there's a massive demand for people like you given the right computer skills. More than 188,000 jobs were advertised during 1997 - 40% more than 1996!

Never do one rocking - the average salary for a programmer is £21,000 rising to well over £50,000 with experience!

Computeach graduates are in high demand - our Job Search Division receives a constant flow of vacancies from organisations nationwide desperately searching for staff. Many mean time and time again for help, our company alone employs over 20 Computeach trained people!

You do not need a fantastic IQ, computer know how, qualifications or to give up work. You do need commitment and determination.

Since 1964, Computeach has trained hundreds of first time entry programmers/analysts - we know what industry expects and we deliver. If you think you have potential, request our Career Development Information Pack, call 0800 697 657.

Leave others to think about it.

\*Source: Computer Weekly Quarterly Survey of Appointment Data and Trends - Computeach International Ltd, Est. 1964.

**EAGLE EYES REQUIRED**

Would you like to practice as a freelance proofreader or editor earning an excellent income working from home? Then mark the errors in this advertisement and post it to Chapterhouse with your name, and a dress.

We'll send you a free prospectus of our services. Chapterhouse courses are respected internationally and our professional tutors give you their personal attention. We never pretend it's easy, but we have a seven-step system of establishing many successful freelancers through our co-respondence training and seminars.

If you're too busy a phone call will do.

**Chapterhouse**  
2 Southamhay West, EXETER EX1 1JG  
Telephone: 01392 499488  
Facsimile: 01392 498008

**The University of Reading**  
The Management Unit

**OPEN LEARNING FAST TRACK MBA**  
22 MONTH PROGRAMME FOR BUSY MANAGERS

The University of Reading Open Learning MBA has been specially designed for experienced qualified managers. Subject to meeting our admission criteria, you will be exempt from the 18 month Diploma Programme and eligible for our 22 month MBA.

The Programmes offer:

- Flexibility
- Work related assignments
- Monthly practical workshops
- Full tutorial support
- Updatable modules
- Continuous assessment
- Frequent start dates throughout the year

Other Programmes include:

- Certificate and Diploma in Management
- 3 & 5 month MBA modules.

Why not attend one of our FREE introductory workshops?

For more details, please contact:  
The Management Unit, The University of Reading, Building 22, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ. Tel: 0118 931 8180 (24 Hrs). Fax: 0118 931 6539.  
E-Mail: Mgt-Unit@reading.ac.uk URL: http://www.rdg.ac.uk/NGT

**Next MBA Starts Jan & March 1999**

**COURSES**

**GET PAID FOR READING BOOKS**

It's true! You can earn up to £500 a week as a Freelance Proofreader and Copy Editor. No experience needed. Unlike home-study courses reveals all you need to know. For a FREE special report and details of how to claim your FREE trial lesson write to: Maple Publishing, (Dept PR1A), FREEPOST HA4446, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 3BR. Or call free

**0800-542-9868** (Quote Ref: PR1)

**NEW**

**Six Week Business Skills**

Keyboarding, Word Processing, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Internet, Audio, Mailmerge, Business English, Telephone Skills, Teamworking, Career Preparation - an intensive course in a highly supportive environment that will prepare you for today's business world in only six enjoyable weeks! Call now for details. 12 & 24 week courses also available.

**QUEEN'S** 0171 589 3583

You'll be amazed at what you can achieve!

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

**A Christmas Message**

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to all our friends who have generously supported our Hospice during 1998. Your donations have helped to bring care, comfort and support to many patients and their families again this year. May we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Sister Superior  
**ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE**  
MARE ST. LONDON E8 4SA  
(Charity Ref. No. 251925)

**LANGUAGE COURSES**

**STUDY LANGUAGES IN EUROPE**

Language courses abroad, for business or pleasure, at some of the most beautiful locations in Europe.

You can help your child to learn to read your second language in a fun and enjoyable way.

2015, West Hill, West Drayton, Middlesex, UB8 3PH  
Tel: 01894 231956  
Fax: 01894 232946

**COURSES**

**SECRETARIAL & COMPUTER STUDIES**

Quality tutored courses available all year round

Edinburgh: 0131 556 7695  
London: 0171 494 3456

**EASTER REVISION**

**LANCASTER UNIVERSITY**

The Management School

GOVERNMENT RATINGS:  
Research: five star (highest possible rating)  
Teaching: excellent

**MPhil/PhD in Critical Management**

- Focus on critical issues in management
- Build on your own experience and ideas, and
- Study towards a PhD or MPhil degree.

Now in its fifth year and specifically designed to help managers tackle important issues confronting their organisations during times of rapid change, this three year, part-time degree programme encourages a critical analysis of existing management theories and practices. Focusing on global and strategic issues, as well as environmental and ethical considerations, the programme has been developed for senior managers and MBA graduates and involves teaching in small groups culminating in a research project.

Our next programme begins April 1999.

For a brochure contact: Sarah Patterson, Programme Administrator, The Management School, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YX. Tel: 01524 533855 or e-mail: s.patterson@lancaster.ac.uk

**KINGSTON BUSINESS SCHOOL**

**MBA**

Join the Class of 2000

Develop yourself through our well established, AMBA accredited programme, rated 'excellent'. This is a flexible programme over two years designed for professional managers who want to combine study with a busy work schedule.

Open Learning: Intensive tuition one weekend per month commencing September and February

Evenings: Weekly attendance commencing September

**Now recruiting for February 1999**  
Next interview date - January 8th

For more information contact the MBA Office:  
Telephone: 0181 547 7035/7615/7120 Fax: 0181 547 7452  
Email: mba@kingston.ac.uk web: http://www.kingston.ac.uk/mba/

**KINGSTON UNIVERSITY**

**It's not too late to apply for Durham's Full-Time MBA course.**

**0191 487 1422**

Durham is one of the few Business Schools to offer three, internationally regarded, AMBA accredited MBA study options - Full-Time, Part-Time and Distance Learning - all designed to extend your knowledge and develop your management skills. These highly flexible options give even the busiest of managers a real opportunity to improve their career potential. So if you're ambitious enough to become one of the world's best managers, phone today for the brochure of your choice.

**DURHAM UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL**

Do not join for your own subscription, and just don't say it's a colleague or friend.

**University of Brighton**

**MSc or MBA (Technology Management)**

A unique masters degree aimed at developing managers with a breadth in general management combined with a strategic vision of the use of technology.

- Part-time flexible attendance
- Intensive five day modules
- 11 modules for MBA, ten for MSc
- Spread the modules over one to four years
- Share experience with professionals from other organisations
- Module exemption for DMS and similar awards

For further information please telephone Helen Poole on (01273) 642947.  
www.bus.bton.ac.uk/postgraduate/

**EASTER REVISION**

**MPW**  
Mander Portman Woodward

**A LEVEL & GCSE EASTER COURSES**

- Intensive tuition
- Focus on exam technique
- Board specific A level courses
- Accommodation is available
- Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge

LONDON  
LONDON  
BIRMINGHAM  
CAMBRIDGE

**EASTER REVISION**

**EASTER REVISION at CATS**

With examinations fast approaching, an intensive programme of revision and exam preparation, in small groups, helps students succeed at GCSE and A-Level.

For further information please contact:  
**01223 314431**  
or visit our web site: www.catscollege.co.uk  
CATS Road Church Street Cambridge CB2 8AD  
E-mail: cats@dist.pipex.com

**EASTER REVISION**

**GCSE'S IN EXETER**

Contact Gabbitts for expert, independent advice on the best sixth-form options.

- School or college?
- AJAS Levels, IB, GNVQ
- University entry and careers

**EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS**  
126 - 130 Regent Street, London W1R 5EE  
Tel: 0171 734 0161 Fax: 0171 437 1754  
Email: edinfo@gabbitts.co.uk Website: www.gabbitts.co.uk

**EF** International English School

**LANGUAGE COURSES ABROAD**  
French • German • Spanish • Italian • Russian

- 2 to 52 week courses starting every week
- Great Year, Revision, Business and Holiday Courses
- Courses suitable for all ages and levels

Call now for a brochure:  
**0171 878 3550**

**The MBA Career Guide**

The leading review of Top Business Schools  
**+ free MBA Recruiters Research**

Subscribe now and receive the international MBA Recruiters research for leading business schools, for example:

USA	UK	Continent, Europe	Rest of World
<input type="checkbox"/> Arden Tech	<input type="checkbox"/> Aston	<input type="checkbox"/> BAP	<input type="checkbox"/> ACSP/NSW
<input type="checkbox"/> Babson	<input type="checkbox"/> Bath	<input type="checkbox"/> BIL Lyon	<input type="checkbox"/> Aston Inzonia
<input type="checkbox"/> Berkeley	<input type="checkbox"/> Bradford	<input type="checkbox"/> ENPC	<input type="checkbox"/> Australian Nat. Univ.
<input type="checkbox"/> Carnegie Mellon	<input type="checkbox"/> Bristol	<input type="checkbox"/> ESCADE	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese Univ. HK
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> Cambridge	<input type="checkbox"/> ICADE	<input type="checkbox"/> Hong Kong S.A.T.

Operational Learning  
 Kingston  
 Leicester  
 Strathclyde  
 Warwick

Open Univ.  
 Strathclyde  
 Warwick

Regions:  
Do not join for your own subscription, and just don't say it's a colleague or friend.

**ORDER**

Please send my subscription to The MBA Career Guide at the reduced rate for business schools. (Professional Consultants only please apply for annual supply.)  
Published online: Spring '99 Current Edition '99 Annual: Contents with profiles of our 75 Best Business Schools and 200+ pages each year. £18.00 (UK) £22.00 (overseas)  
Add £10.00 per volume postage. EU (EU) per volume (including first class airmail) £15.00. Single volume £10.00. Single volume £10.00.  
The MBA Career Guide: 110M Nelson Road, Regent Park, London NW1 7RU. Tel: +44 (0)171 383 4999 or +44 (0)171 383 4411  
 Visa  Mastercard  Amex  Eurocard  Diners  Discover  Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please put Cardholder name and address in bold type at above.

**EASTER REVISION**

**EASTER COURSES AT HERTFORD COLLEGE OXFORD**

For a prospectus call: 01865 342670  
Cherwell Tutors  
Greyfriars  
Oxford, OX1 1LD

**ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX**

No. ....  
c/o TIMES NEWSPAPERS  
P.O. BOX 3553,  
VIRGINIA ST.  
LONDON, E1 9GA

**Christ's College Cambridge**

**DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Applications are invited for the post of Development Director at Christ's College, to take office as soon as possible. The Development Director will take responsibility for a continuing fund-raising campaign, including a quinquennial appeal prior to 2005. The appointee will also be expected to lead and give impetus to all aspects of fund-raising work, in conjunction with the Master and Fellows, including face-to-face fund-raising and alumni relations activity. The Development Director will also investigate other sources of support from individuals, charities and commercial organisations.

The post offers important and challenging responsibilities in a lively College environment. Previous experience of fund-raising is not essential but applicants should be able to demonstrate that they have the personal qualities to manage an operation of this kind in the College context. The stipend will be in excess of £30,000 with membership of the Universities Superannuation Scheme. The appointment will be for seven years, subject to a review after two. The Development Director will be eligible for election to a Fellowship of the College.

A detailed job specification may be viewed on Christ's College web-site (http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk) or may be obtained (preferably by sending a self-addressed envelope) from the Bursar's Secretary, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU. Applications, with particulars of the applicant's career and the names of three persons from whom references may be sought, should be received by 18 January, 1999.

**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

Department of Zoology  
**Administrator**  
Academic-Related Administrative Grade 5:  
Salary £30,406 - £34,404

With discretionary range to £37,257

Applications are invited for the post of Administrator in the Department of Zoology. This is a wide-ranging job, in a busy and expanding teaching and research department. The Administrator is responsible to the Head of Department for the smooth running of all the non-academic activities of the department, including finance, buildings and personnel. The post requires an experienced manager with the ability to think strategically and a proven track record of financial and personnel management.

The post is available from 8 March 1999. Further particulars may be obtained from the Head of Department's Secretary, Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS (Tel: 01865 275255; e-mail: g.p.gardner@zoology.ox.ac.uk) to whom applications should be sent. The closing date for applications is Friday 18th December 1998.

The University is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

# 'The best and the rest educated together'

## Stowe School flourishes despite league tables, says Bruce Kemble

Stowe languishes so far down the academic league tables that one headmaster describes it as being in danger of "falling off". This week, it was listed as 17th of 44 schools in Buckinghamshire, while in 1997 it slipped to its lowest-ever position at 61st on *The Times* national table for A-level performance. Its overall placing this year is 561.

Yet the news this week that pop star Michael Jackson has put his son Prince down for Stowe demonstrates that the school has a significant following of parents who believe it is far more to offer than its ranking would suggest.

Former Stowe pupil Lord McAlpin of West Green, agrees: "It's just the place for someone slightly eccentric, as I imagine this boy will be."

Jeremy Nichols, Stowe's 55-year-old headmaster, insists the school would come near the top of an assessment of the achievements of old boys and girls by the time they reach 40.

"As I believe passionately that the best and the rest should be educated together, we can live with the poor placing in the league tables," Mr Nichols says. "It hurts, but it is

the price we must pay to do what we think is right.

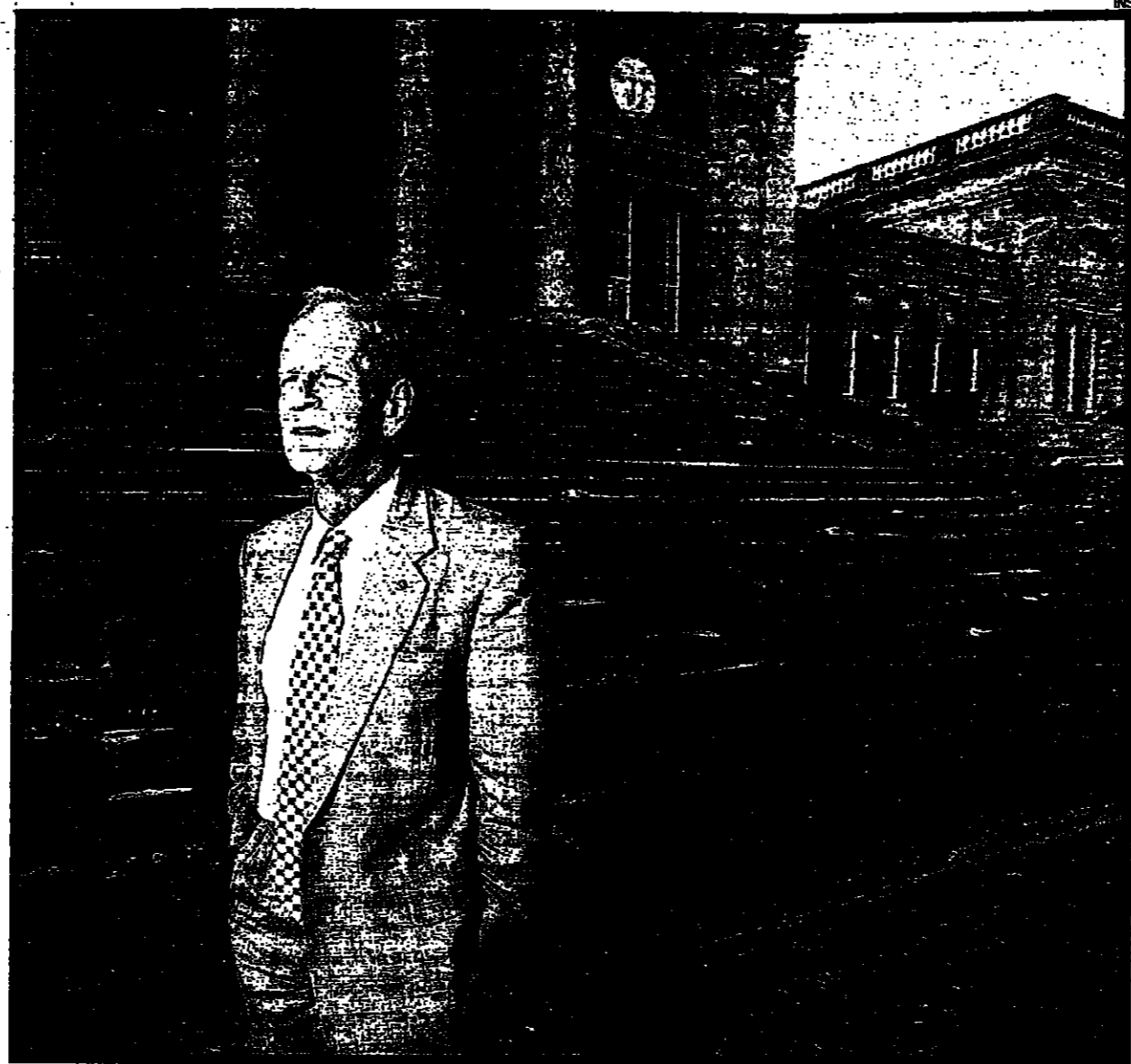
"However, unless it is properly understood why we are where we are, the parents of bright children will be wrongly deterred from sending them to us.

"Then we will be prevented from doing what we believe. There will be fewer bright children properly capable of understanding the worth of those who are less good at passing exams than they are, and little chance of sustaining a genuine democracy."

Mr Nichols, formerly a master at Eton for 22 years, believes that classifying children on early exam success alone is too narrow a distinction. "Stowe now stands almost alone against a *Brave New World* caste-culture of classifying and separating children based on early indicators of exam potential," he says.

"Another major reason why Stowe has more pupils of modest ability is the school's noted success with low-achievers. It has been widely, but wrongly, assumed that because Stowe is a wonderful place for the dyslexic, it cannot be a powerful force for the academically strong."

Mr Nichols stresses that if



Headmaster Jeremy Nichols: "Stowe's ethos and philosophy is built on the breadth of talent one finds here"

league tables were based on the "value added" by a school, Stowe would then look strong. He believes that the brightest children are not best served by being sent to a school which is exclusively for the most intelligent.

Pupils are prepared better for life if they learn teamwork and rub shoulders with children of lesser academic ability. And clever boys gain from knowing and mixing with children who aren't as clever.

"Stowe's ethos and philosophy is built on the breadth of talent one finds here," Mr Nichols says. "All my staff can teach the high-flyers to fly high, but are also terrific with those who, at 13, are considered to be borderline cases but

can get passes at Cs and Ds." Parents of £4,980 a term, and day pupils' families pay £3,600 — Mr Nichols is confident they get value for money.

What makes him furious though is parents who ask if Stowe offers teaching comparable with that at schools in the league tables' top 25.

"Breadth of talent is what this country needs and what Stowe provides. I'm thrilled with the sheer number of old boys who have achieved enormous distinction in all sorts of different walks of life."

The list of old boys from Stowe is impressive, including, in politics, Sir Nicholas Lyell, Lord Rees, Lord Boyd-Carpenter and Lord Amptill;

in industry, Richard Branson and Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover.

The academic world has boasted Lord Quinton, Lord Annan and Professor Charles Cullis. In the Armed Services: Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, and General Sir Frank Kitson. The diplomatic service attracted Sir Nicholas Henderson and Sir Derek Dodson. The world of entertainment: David Niven and George Melly. In publishing: Lord Stevens of Ludgate and Sir Peregrine Worsthorne.

Mr Nichols says Michael Jackson's decision to send his son to Stowe is "wonderful news for our director of music, who has a pipe band, a choir and a brass band, as well as

the usual acoustic boom-boom stuff". He describes Stowe's admissions policy as "flexible". He does not admit pupils who are going to struggle but, providing a child is strong in some area, he accepts them even if they manage only 40 per cent in the Common Entrance examinations.

"Let's broaden the league tables," Mr Nichols says. "I'd love there to be a table for 40-year-olds. We would ask: 'How well have you done with all this stuff you've learnt?'"

"I want there to be rocket scientists who make wonderful discoveries, but I want them to mix with people who find a quadratic equation difficult or who don't even know how to spell it."

# Awards for all things bright and beautiful

## A wide range of scholarships is on offer by independent schools

At this time of year you can save a few pounds picking up a bargain-price, high-quality tennis racket. But you can save hundreds, even thousands, on a tennis scholarship at an independent school such as Queenswood in Hertfordshire.

It is a myth that scholarships are only for the inhabitants of boffin land. There are scholarships for music, drama, art, design technology, information technology and sport. Sports awards

can be for general ability or particular skills, such as the golf scholarships offered by St Leonard's, Eife.

But the system also throws up a few surprises, like scholarships for chess players or vegetarians, while the many "all-rounder" awards give heads freedom

to reward character, commitment or any talents. There are several reasons why independent schools offer scholarships. Bringing in top pupils from prep schools, overseas schools and state primaries lifts examination results, improves performance in the league tables and attracts more talented pupils.

Bright kids raise teacher morale and give the class a positive lead. There is also a genuine desire to offer support to talented boys and girls whose parents cannot afford a place. Many independent schools have charitable foundations offering scholarships.

Sevenoaks presents about 50 scholarships every year, while 130 of Eton's 1,300 pupils receive such awards.

Academic scholarships are still the most common form of award. Only a few are offered by prep schools and candidates can expect a morning of tests and interviews. At senior level, awards are made mainly at 11, 13 and 16. Pupils at prep schools are well prepared for entrance and scholarship papers but parents of children in the state system should not be put off. Heads are on the lookout for potential. Non-academic scholars are assessed in various ways. There are auditions for music, and an 11-year-old should have at least grade 3 (and probably 4 or 5) on a main instrument.

Music awards range from 15 to 50 per cent of full fees and/or free tuition. About 40 cathedral schools give choral scholarships to boys — and sometimes girls — as young as 8. Art candidates usually are assessed on a portfolio of work and an interview. Drama scholars have an audition and interview, and sports applicants must present a CV and take tests. You can find out which schools offer scholarships from ISIS, the Independent Schools Information Service, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG. Telephone: 0171 630 8793.

Teachers are on the look-out for pupils showing potential'

Music awards range from 15 to 50 per cent of full fees and/or free tuition. About 40 cathedral schools give choral scholarships to boys — and sometimes girls — as young as 8. Art candidates usually are assessed on a portfolio of work and an interview. Drama scholars have an audition and interview, and sports applicants must present a CV and take tests. You can find out which schools offer scholarships from ISIS, the Independent Schools Information Service, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG. Telephone: 0171 630 8793.

Music awards range from 15 to 50 per cent of full fees and/or free tuition. About 40 cathedral schools give choral scholarships to boys — and sometimes girls — as young as 8. Art candidates usually are assessed on a portfolio of work and an interview. Drama scholars have an audition and interview, and sports applicants must present a CV and take tests. You can find out which schools offer scholarships from ISIS, the Independent Schools Information Service, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG. Telephone: 0171 630 8793.

Music awards range from 15 to 50 per cent of full fees and/or free tuition. About 40 cathedral schools give choral scholarships to boys — and sometimes girls — as young as 8. Art candidates usually are assessed on a portfolio of work and an interview. Drama scholars have an audition and interview, and sports applicants must present a CV and take tests. You can find out which schools offer scholarships from ISIS, the Independent Schools Information Service, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG. Telephone: 0171 630 8793.

DAVID THOMAS

## Law Report December 4 1998 House of Lords

# Police cannot recover over Hillsborough trauma

**Frost and Others v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police and Others**

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Griffiths, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann

[Speeches December 3] Police officers who suffered psychiatric injury as a result of being involved in the aftermath when several spectators were killed and others severely injured at Hillsborough Football Stadium in Sheffield were not entitled to recover damages against the chief constable either as employees or as rescuers.

The House of Lords so held by a majority. Lord Goff dissenting and Lord Griffiths dissenting in part, when allowing an appeal by the first defendant, the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police, from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Henry, Lord Justice Judge dissenting) (The Times November 6, 1996; 1997 3 WLR 104) allowing an appeal against the chief constable and other defendants, namely Sheff-

field Wednesday Football Club and Eastwood & Partners (a firm), for damages for personal injuries suffered on April 15, 1989 due to the defendants' negligence and/or breach of statutory duty.

Mr Andrew Colander, QC and Mr Patrick Lind for the chief constable; Mr Benet Hytner, QC and Mr Graham Platts for the plaintiffs.

LORD STEYN said that the horrific events at Hillsborough Stadium resulted in the death of 96 spectators and physical injury to more than 700. It also scarred many others for life by emotional harm.

It was admitted by the chief constable that the events were caused by the negligence of the police in allowing the overcrowding of two spectator pens.

In an ideal world all those who suffered as a result of the negligence ought to be compensated. But we live in a practical world where the tort system imposes limits to the classes of claim that ranked for consideration as well as to the heads of recoverable damages. That resulted of course in imperfect justice, but it was by and large the best the common law could do.

The application of the requirement of reasonable foreseeability was sufficient for the disposal of

the resulting claims for death and physical injury. But the common law regarded reasonable foreseeability as an inadequate tool for the disposal of claims in respect of emotional suffering even if it was acute and truly distressing.

The four police officers were actively helping to deal with the human consequences of the tragedy and as a result suffered from post traumatic stress disorder.

They put in the forefront of their case that they suffered harm as a result of the negligence of the police in allowing the overcrowding of two spectator pens.

A constant theme of argument for the police officers was that there was no justification for their injury as different kinds of damage, and in so arguing counsel was repeating an observation of Lord Lloyd of Berwick in *Page v Smith* (1996) AC 155, 197(3).

Nowadays courts accepted that there was no rigid distinction between body and mind, and that a recognizable psychiatric illness resulted from an impact on the central nervous system.

In that sense therefore there was no qualitative difference between physical and psychiatric harm. And the latter harm might be far more debilitating than the former.

It would however be an altogether different proposition to say that no distinction was made or ought to be made between principles governing the recovery of damages in tort for physical injury and psychiatric harm. The contours of tort law were profoundly affected by distinctions between different kinds of damage or harm.

Policy considerations had undoubtedly played a role in shaping the law governing compensation for pure psychiatric harm. It was scarcely surprising that the law should be regarded as a treatment for angina.

Nor had he received advice for angina. He had received advice in respect of symptoms that turned out to be those of angina.

It was not enough that the plaintiff had received advice for symptoms that turned out to be angina unless the insurers could read "condition" as including symptoms of a generalised kind that might indicate any number of different diseases or ills.

There was no justification for so reading it, especially in the context of "sickness, disease ... or injury". "Condition" in that context meant a medical condition recognised as such by doctors.

Lord Steyn and Lord Hope agreed with Lord Lloyd. Solicitors: M. J. Darby & Co. Halesowen; Martin Shepherd & Co.

Where the line was to be drawn was a matter for expert psychiatric evidence. That distinction served to demonstrate how the law could not compensate for all emotional suffering even if it was acute and truly distressing.

The next important development was *Page v Smith* (1996) AC 155, where a distinction was drawn between primary and secondary victims.

To be a primary victim one must have been within the zone of physical injury, as opposed to psychiatric injury. The plaintiff who was directly involved in a motor car accident fulfilled that requirement and could, in principle, recover compensation for psychiatric loss.

In his Lordship's view it followed that all other victims who suffered pure psychiatric harm were secondary victims and had to satisfy the control mechanisms set down in the *Atcock* case.

The instant case was also argued on conventional employee's liability principles. Counsel relied on the undoubted duty of an employer to protect employees from harm through work.

There was two separate themes to the argument. The first rested on an employer's duty to care for the safety of his employees and to take reasonable steps to safeguard them from harm. When analysed that argument broke down.

It was a non-sequitur to say that because an employer was under a duty to an employee not to cause him physical injury, the employer should as a necessary consequence of that duty, of which there was no breach, be under a duty not to cause the employee psychiatric injury.

The rules to be applied to an action against an employer for harm suffered at the workplace were the rules of tort. One was therefore thrown back to the ordinary rules of the law of tort which contained restrictions on the recovery of compensation for psychiatric harm.

If the employer's duty to safeguard his employees from harm was formulated in contrast as a term implied by law, such a term could not be wider than the duty imposed by the law of tort. Therefore the argument based on an employer's duty did not assist the police officers.

That was a weighty moral argument as to where justice lay on this occasion. One was considering the claims of police officers who sustained serious psychiatric harm in the course of performing their duties in harrowing circumstances.

The difficulty was however twofold: First, the pragmatic rules governing the recovery of compensation for pure psychiatric harm did not at present include police officers who sustained such injuries while on duty.

If such a category were to be created by judicial decision, the new principle would be available in many different situations, for example doctors and hospital workers who were exposed to the sight of grievous injuries and suffering.

Second, it was common ground that police officers who were traumatised by something they encountered in their work had the benefit of statutory schemes which permitted them to retire on pension.

In that sense they were better off than bereaved relatives who were not allowed to recover in the *Atcock* case.

The claims of the police on our sympathy, and the justice of the case, were great but not as great as that of others to whom the law denied redress.

Secondly perceived the incident, rather than, for example, hearing about it from a third person.

The next important development was *Page v Smith* (1996) AC 155, where a distinction was drawn between primary and secondary victims.

To be a primary victim one must have been within the zone of physical injury, as opposed to psychiatric injury. The plaintiff who was directly involved in a motor car accident fulfilled that requirement and could, in principle, recover compensation for psychiatric loss.

In his Lordship's view it followed that all other victims who suffered pure psychiatric harm were secondary victims and had to satisfy the control mechanisms set down in the *Atcock* case.

The instant case was also argued on conventional employee's liability principles. Counsel relied on the undoubted duty of an employer to protect employees from harm through work.

There was two separate themes to the argument. The first rested on an employer's duty to care for the safety of his employees and to take reasonable steps to safeguard them from harm. When analysed that argument broke down.

It was a non-sequitur to say that because an employer was under a duty to an employee not to cause him physical injury, the employer should as a necessary consequence of that duty, of which there was no breach, be under a duty not to cause the employee psychiatric injury.

The rules to be applied to an action against an employer for harm suffered at the workplace were the rules of tort. One was therefore thrown back to the ordinary rules of the law of tort which contained restrictions on the recovery of compensation for psychiatric harm.

If the employer's duty to safeguard his employees from harm was formulated in contrast as a term implied by law, such a term could not be wider than the duty imposed by the law of tort. Therefore the argument based on an employer's duty did not assist the police officers.

That was a weighty moral argument as to where justice lay on this occasion. One was considering the claims of police officers who sustained serious psychiatric harm in the course of performing their duties in harrowing circumstances.

The difficulty was however twofold: First, the pragmatic rules governing the recovery of compensation for pure psychiatric harm did not at present include police officers who sustained such injuries while on duty.

If such a category were to be created by judicial decision, the new principle would be available in many different situations, for example doctors and hospital workers who were exposed to the sight of grievous injuries and suffering.

Second, it was common ground that police officers who were traumatised by something they encountered in their work had the benefit of statutory schemes which permitted them to retire on pension.

In that sense they were better off than bereaved relatives who were not allowed to recover in the *Atcock* case.

The claims of the police on our sympathy, and the justice of the case, were great but not as great as that of others to whom the law denied redress.

shy curious spectators who assisted in some peripheral way in the aftermath of a disaster might recover.

It would be an unwarranted extension of the law to uphold the claims of the police officers.

Lord Hoffmann delivered a concurring judgment. Lord Browne-Wilkinson agreed with Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann. Lord Goff delivered a dissenting judgment.

LORD GRIFFITHS said he would allow the appeals in so far as the plaintiffs relied on their status as employees but would dismiss the appeals in respect of those who came within the special category of rescuers.

His Lordship did not share the view that the public would find it in some way offensive that those who suffered disabling psychiatric illness as a result of their efforts to rescue the victims should receive compensation but that those who suffered the grief of bereavement should not.

Bereavement and grief were part of the common condition of mankind which everyone would endure at some time in life. It could be an appalling experience but it was different in kind from psychiatric illness, and the law had never recognised it as a head of damage.

Part of the price of our humanity was the suffering of bereavement, for which no sum of money could provide solace or comfort. His Lordship thought better of his fellow men than to believe that they would, although bereaved, look like dogs in the manger upon those who went to the rescue at Hillsborough.

Accordingly his Lordship would have allowed the appeal only in respect of PC Gave, who was not a rescuer but relied upon his status as an employee.

Solicitors: Hammond Suddards, Leeds; Russell Jones & Walker, Sheffield.

# No pre-existing illness until diagnosis

**Cook v Financial Insurance Co Ltd**

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn and Lord Hope of Craighead

[Speeches December 3] A plaintiff who had symptoms of angina prior to taking out disability insurance but was only diagnosed as suffering from angina on the day following the commencement of the policy was not deemed to be claiming under it by an exclusion clause relating to pre-existing illness.

The House of Lords by a majority, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Jauncey dissenting, allowed an appeal by Jeffrey Harry Cook from the majority decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Hutton, Lord Justice Evans dissenting) on April 17, 1997 allowing an appeal by the defendant, Financial Insurance Co Ltd, from Judge Bogels, QC, at Birmingham County Court, who had given Mr Cook judgment for £5,101.85.

Mr Stephen Howd for Mr Cook; Mr Basil Yorral for the insurers.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON, dissenting, said that the question was whether the plaintiff had been suffering from any sickness, disease or injury for which he had received advice, treatment or counselling from any registered medical practitioner during the 12 months preceding the commencement date of the policy.

LORD LLOYD said that it was not suggested that the plaintiff had received counselling for angina prior to October 16, 1992.

On July 26, 1992 he had collapsed. He had seen his doctor on July 30 and September 4. He had been suffering from pain and breathlessness.

His doctor could not accurately diagnose his condition: it might have been a viral infection or respiratory disease or a heart disease. In fact she had advised him to see a cardiologist.

In her covering letter to the cardiologist she had said: "Obviously with the history I would like to exclude angina..." All that had happened just before the commencement date of the policy, on October 15, the cardiologist on October 16 had diagnosed angina.

Although undiagnosed at the time, the plaintiff had been suffering from a medical condition that was angina and in relation to which he had received advice and counselling.

His Lordship could see no reason why in order to suffer a disability resulting from a condition the exact nature of that condition had to be identified.

LORD JAUNCEY, agreeing with Lord Browne-Wilkinson, said that the physical condition that had disabled the plaintiff from work had been the same condition from which he had been suffering since at least September 4. For that condition he had received treatment, albeit inappropriate, and advice.

LORD LLOYD said that it was not suggested that the plaintiff had received counselling for angina prior to October 16, 1992.

# Court can imply reserved right of way

**Peckham and Another v Edinson and Another**

Before Lord Justice Hirst and Mr Justice Cazalet

[Judgment November 26] Where there was no other reasonable explanation than that the parties to a conveyance of land intended that the vendor should reserve a right of way over the land in favour of a neighbour, the court could imply such a reservation.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Stephen Peckham and Sarah Peckham, the owners of 15 Kirklands, Chipping, Preston, from the dismissal by Judge Cee on November 11, 1997 in Preston County Court of their appeal from an order of District Judge Turner of August 21, 1996 that the plaintiffs, George Edinson and Margaret Edinson, owners of 16 Kirklands, held a right of way across the rear of 15 Kirklands.

Mr David Gilchrist for the defendants; Mr Kevin Musahieb for the plaintiffs.

MR JUSTICE CAZALET said Nos 15, 16, 17 and 18 Kirklands were a terrace. The claimed right of way ran from a gap between Nos 14 and 15 Kirklands, down the side and along the back of No 15 to the back door of No 16.

The local authority had sold No 15 to a Miss Rich in 1982 under the right to buy statutory provisions. The authority granted the purchasers a right of way over a nearby track, but no other rights of way were reserved or granted.

The defendants had bought No 15 from Miss Rich in 1993. The plaintiffs had become tenants of No 16 in 1967 and had bought the house from the council in 1989. The only rights of way granted in the conveyance of No 16 were of no direct relevance to the proceedings.

The issue was whether there was an implied reservation of a right of way in the 1982 conveyance of No 15 to enable the owners and occupiers of No 16 to pass and re-

pass on foot over No 15 around the side and back of the house to gain access to the back door of No 16. The parties had put the case before the judge on agreed facts.

Counsel were agreed that the correct test for the judge to have applied was that stated by Lord Justice Jenkins in *Re Webb's Lease* (1951) Ch 808, 829, namely whether the circumstances raised a necessary inference of an intention common to both parties that the council should have the right of way reserved to it for the benefit of No 16.

Before such an inference could be drawn the plaintiffs had to show that the facts were not reasonably consistent with any other explanation. It was not enough that they were simply consistent with such an explanation.

The judge had attached importance to the evidence of Miss Rich that she had always believed No 16 had a right of way over the land, and to her answer to a written pre-contract inquiry prior to the sale of No 15 to the defendants.

Asked: "Do you know of any other arrangements, formal or informal, which give someone rights over your property?" Miss Rich had replied in her own hand: "Yes. Next door neighbour on left has right of way round house."

In the circumstances, and having regard to the exceptional facts, the judge had not applied the wrong test. In his Lordship's view the judge's findings demonstrated a necessary inference of an intention common to both parties that the council should have a right of way reserved to it over No 15 for the benefit of No 16.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST agreed. On the special facts of the case, the upholding of an implied reservation was fully in line with the established authorities and was in no sense an extension, let alone a relaxation, of the very stringent tests there laid down.

Solicitors: Napthen Houghton Craven, Preston; Nichols Craven Marsden, Preston.

# No direct effect for designations of origin

**Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma v Asda Stores Ltd and Another**

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment December 1]

The slicing and packaging of Parma ham was not covered by EC Council Regulation 2081/92 which provided for the designation of origin of certain foodstuffs. The sale of genuine Parma ham sliced and packaged in the United Kingdom did not infringe EC law and was accordingly lawful.

Council Regulation 2081/92 (OJ 1992 L208/1) did not meet the criteria to have direct effect and therefore was not enforceable by individuals within member states.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing the appeal of Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma against the decision of Mr Lawrence Collins, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge (*The Times* February 3, 1998) to strike out the action brought against Asda Stores Ltd and Hygrade Foods Ltd by the consortium.

Mr Peter Duffy, QC and Mr Jonathan Cole for the consortium; Mr Nicholas Green for Asda and Hygrade.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that the consortium was an association of Parma ham producers with responsibility under Italian law for supervising and enforcing compliance with regulations on the production and marketing of Parma ham.

Asda sold packets of Parma ham purchased from Hygrade. The ham was purchased from one of the largest Parma ham producers in Italy and after importation

into this country was sliced and then packaged by Hygrade.

The consortium started proceedings alleging that the sale by Asda of Parma ham, sliced and packaged in this country, offended against Council Regulation 2081/92. Asda contended that allegation and by notice of motion sought determination under Order 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court whether Council Regulation 2081/92 or Commission Regulation 1107/96 (OJ 1996 L48/1) conferred rights on the consortium.

The judge held that the regulations did not have the effect of prohibiting the sale of Parma ham, labelled as such, which had been pre-sliced and packaged in this country. The result was that the statement of claim disclosed no cause of action and he therefore struck the action out. The consortium appealed.

In 1963 local producers formed the consortium to protect the name "Prosciutto di Parma". Since the 1980s it had taken action directly to protect the interests of its members in the integrity and name of the product.

In 1990 an Italian law, Law No 26 of February 13, 1990, replaced an earlier enactment reserving the name "Parma ham" exclusively to ham produced in the area.

In February 1992 the consortium adopted regulations concerning the slicing and packaging of Parma ham. The consequence was that under Italian law pre-sliced and packaged ham had to be sliced and packaged in the Parma area.

There was no evidence that Asda's sliced ham was of inferior quality to that produced in Italy under the supervision of the consortium.

Council Regulation No 2081/92

laid down rules on the protection of designations of origin and geographical indications of agricultural products intended for human consumption. The protected designation of origin "Prosciutto di Parma" was registered pursuant to Regulation 1107/96 under the fast-track procedure under article 17 of Regulation 2081/92. "Prosciutto di Parma" was listed without examination.

To have direct effect a regulation had to be sufficiently clear and precise and also provide a source of information to enable the relevant class of persons to be simply and cheaply informed of their rights, applying the principles in *Commission v Federal Republic of Germany* (Case 29/84) [1985] ECR I661, 1665.

In his Lordships' judgment, the regulation did not meet those criteria because it was not sufficiently clear and precise and also did not provide an appropriate source of information as to the rights sought to be enforced. Further, the regulation itself indicated that it was not intended to have direct effect.

Recital 7 to the regulation envisaged that there should be a Community approach for implementation of protection of designations of origin. That was to be provided by a framework of Community rules in the regulations.

Thus the regulation was only intended to be a framework to set up a uniform approach and fair competition rather than a precise statement of rights and obligations. His Lordship outlined the provisions of the regulation.

The combination of articles 10 and 11 laid down a framework for enforcement of registered rights in member states. The general struc-

ture indicated that the regulation did not have direct effect, in that it laid down a general framework for registration, examination, grant and enforcement of a protected designation of origin by action of member states supervised by the Commission.

What was not set out in the regulation was also important. The regulation required there to be a specification and laid down the minimum requirements that had to be included. It did not provide for a register of specifications as was normal for other registered rights such as trademarks.

Further, the verification process provided by articles 6 and 7 was not compulsory. As happened in this case the fast track procedure was used.

It would be unusual to have individuals asserting rights, akin to monopoly rights, granted in respect of specifications that had not been verified and were not available for inspection at the place of registry.

The conclusion that the regulation was not intended to have direct effect was supported by the facts. The protected designation of origin in question was one of about 300 registered by a number of member states, submitted probably in the language of the member state.

There was no obligation on the Commission nor the submitting member state to provide individuals with a copy of any specification, nor in any particular language.

There was no Community source from which Asda could have learned of the prohibition on slicing. Far from being transparent, the rights attaching to the protected designation of origin relat-

ing to Parma ham were opaque and not capable of being discovered simply and cheaply.

Further, the regulation did not provide for protection of steps such as slicing of ham. Regulation 2081/92 was made under article 43 of the EC Treaty and had to be construed consistently with the Treaty.

Article 38 states: "The common market shall extend to agriculture and trade in agricultural products." Agricultural products were defined as "the products of the soil, of stockfarming, and of fisheries and products of first-stage processing directly related to the products".

Article 38 went on to state that the products subject to the provisions of articles 39 to 46 were listed in Annex II to the Treaty. Annex II included meat, but did not mention sliced meat.

Pigs were products of stockfarming and hams were products of first-stage processing, but slicing of ham and the sliced ham did not appear to come within article 38 of the Treaty; they were not products of first-stage processing directly related to the product.

It would not be right to stretch the words of article 38 of the regulation to provide protection for slicing of ham. Like the judge, his Lordship concluded that the regulation did not provide protection for slicing of ham, nor the pre-sliced process.

The consortium and the producer added by amendment had no enforceable rights under the regulation which would enable them to bring these proceedings.

Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Kennedy agreed.

Solicitors: Aruro Barone, Eversheds, Leeds; Clarke Willmott & Clarke, Taunton.

# Value-added tax on hiring motor cars

**BRS Automotive Ltd v Commissioners of Customs and Excise**

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Pill

[Judgment November 12]

On a true construction, paragraph (2C) of article 7 of the VAT (Input Tax) Order 1992, as amended, was focused on the supply, acquisition or importation of the motor car which gave rise to the input tax for which credit was being sought and excluded that tax from credit only if the person receiving the supply, or making the acquisition or importation, had let the motor car on hire before August 1, 1995.

The Court of Appeal so held in an appeal by the plaintiffs, BRS Automotive Ltd, from the judgment of Mr Justice Sedley on January 24, 1997, who had allowed the appeal of the Customs and Excise Commissioners from a decision of the Value Added Tax Tribunal, which had allowed the plaintiffs' appeal against the commissioners' assessment for value-added tax claimed in a notice dated 5 December 1995.

Paragraph (2C) of article 7 of the VAT (Input Tax) Order (SI 1992 No 3222) as amended by the VAT (Input Tax) (Amendment No 3) Order (SI 1995 No 1668) provides: "A motor car that is supplied, acquired from another member state or imported on or after August 1, 1995 and which would, apart from this paragraph, be a qualifying motor car by virtue of sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (2A) above shall not be such a car if it was supplied on a letting on hire prior to that date by the person to whom it is supplied or by whom it is acquired or imported (as the case may be)."

Section 6 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 provides: "(3) ... a supply of services shall be treated as taking place at the time when the services are performed ..."

"(4) ... if before the time applicable under sections ... (3) ... the person making the supply ... receives a payment in respect of it, the supply shall, to the extent covered by the payment, be treated as taking place at the time ... the payment is received."

Mr David Milne, QC and Miss Julie Anderson for BRS Automotive Ltd; Mr Nicholas Paines, QC and Mr Timothy Brennan for the Commissioners.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that BRS let vehicles on hire. While the outcome would have implications for many similar transactions, it concerned their claim to recover input tax on six cars purchased from a dealer and let to a lessee after August 1, 1995.

Until then UK legislation blocked the deduction of input tax

paid on the purchase of motor cars in most circumstances, including cars acquired for leasing to other parties.

On August 1, 1995 the rules were changed in a manner beneficial to businesses which acquired cars for the purpose of leasing. The block on input tax recovery by leasing companies was removed and a block was imposed on the recovery of VAT paid on lease rentals, but only as to 50 per cent.

The retroactive money was seen as a simplified method of making provision for the element of private use of company cars.

Under an agreement dated September 9, 1993, BRS leased vehicles to a subsidiary of Kunkin plc named MHG. On July 27, 1995 Kunkin told BRS that Pool Master, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kunkin, would be responsible for the leasing and fleet management of cars to be supplied to MHG.

On July 27, 1995, Pool Master made an agreement with MHG for the leasing of 1,800 cars over four years by Pool Master to MHG. By a pre-payment agreement dated July 28, 1995, MHG paid to Pool Master a sum amounting to 95 per cent of all the rentals payable by MHG in respect of the 1,800 cars, £11.4 million attracting VAT of £1.995 million.

On the same day MHG agreed to lend back to Pool Master £12 million, £13.995 million (£1.4 million plus VAT) was transferred from MHG to Pool Master on July 28 and £1.2 million was transferred from Pool Master back to MHG on July 31.

Pool Master accounted to the commissioners for £1.995 million VAT charged by it to MHG on the pre-payment. MHG in turn deducted £1.995 million as input tax on its own return.

The object of the scheme appeared to have been to take advantage of the "time of supply" rules in the transitional provisions of the legislation.

The cars would fall to be treated, as to 95 per cent of their rental cost, as having been "supplied" in July 1995. MHG would benefit from input tax deduction on the £11.4 million by virtue of the old rules.

Pool Master would, however, acquire the cars after August 1, 1995 and would benefit under the new rules from 100 per cent input tax deduction on the VAT paid by it in the acquisition of the cars.

The commissioners accepted the scheme as legitimate and as having that effect.

After August 1, 1995, MHG ordered vehicles from Pool Master who ordered them from BRS who purchased them from their supplier. Even though the BRS purchases took place after August 1, 1995, the commissioners decided to per-

mit them to recover as input tax the VAT paid by them to the suppliers, on the ground that, by virtue of the agreement between Pool Masters and MHG, there had been a "supply" of the cars before August 1 and the new rules did not apply to the BRS purchases after that date.

Following the decision of the House of Lords in *Inland Revenue Commissioners v MGN Ltd* ([1997] 1 WLR 991) the commissioners had changed their stance and were now prepared to consent to the appeal being allowed on the basis that the arrangements made by the companies in the Kunkin group constituted an artificial tax avoidance scheme which was to be ignored for tax purposes.

However, the court had decided that the appeal could and should be determined upon a construction of the regulations and without resort to what the parties described as the "tax avoidance principle".

The case turned upon the construction of paragraph (2C) of article 7. The issue was what taxable person or persons dealing with the car were covered by the closing words of paragraph (2C). The paragraph was placed there to prevent taxable persons from taking advantage at the same time of both the old and the new regime.

For the commissioners it was submitted that the expression "was supplied on a letting on hire prior to August 1, 1995" meant a supply in the sense of section 6(4) of the 1994 Act. There was, it was submitted, a supply on a letting of the relevant cars with the transaction between Pool Master and MHG in July 1995.

For BRS the primary submission was that paragraph (2C) applied only if the car had been let on hire prior to August 1, 1995 by the taxable person who had acquired the input tax on the supply, acquisition or importation of the recovery of which was in question, that is, in this instance, Pool Master.

The paragraph was intended to prevent such a party himself pre-letting, that is, supplying on a letting before August 1, before it was supplied to him on or after August 1 but not to have the broader application for which the commissioners contended.

His Lordship agreed with the submission that paragraph (2C) was focused on the supply, acquisition or importation of the motor car which gave rise to the input tax for which credit was being sought and excluded that tax from credit only if the person receiving the supply had let the car on hire before August 1, 1995.

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Beldam agreed.

Solicitors: Garrett & Co, Leeds; Solicitors, Customs and Excise.

# Industrial injury allowance is pension scheme

**Swansea City and County v Johnson**

Before Mr Justice Hart

[Judgment November 23]

The scheme for industrial injury allowances contained in Part L of the Local Government Superannuation Regulations (SI 1986 No 24) did amount to "an occupational pension scheme" within the meaning of section 1 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993.

Accordingly, the Pensions Ombudsman had jurisdiction to entertain a complaint alleging maladministration of Part L.

Mr Justice Hart so held in the Chancery Division when allowing, for other reasons, an appeal by the City and County of Swansea against a determination of the Pensions Ombudsman upholding a complaint by Roy Johnson that the authority had been guilty, inter alia, of maladministration.

Section 1 of the 1993 Act provides: "Occupational" pension scheme means any scheme which is comprised in one or more instruments and which has, or is capable

of having, effect in relation to one or more descriptions or categories of employees so as to provide benefits, in the form of pensions or otherwise, payable on termination of service, or on death or retirement, or on or in respect of earners with qualifying service in an employment of any such description or category."

Regulation L3 provides: "(1) If as a result of an incapacity which is likely to be permanent caused by an injury or a disease a person to whom this Part applies ceases to be employed in a relevant employment ... he shall be entitled to an allowance."

Miss Elisabeth Laing for Swansea; Mr Paul Newman for Mr Johnson.

MR JUSTICE HART said that the claimant was employed by West Glamorgan County Council, the predecessor of the appellant, until he took early retirement at the age of 55. He remained in employment, outside local government, until early 1988.

In 1989, his trade union applied

for the complainant's behalf for an injury allowance pursuant to Part L of the 1986 Regulations on the basis that the asbestos from which he suffered had been contracted during his employment with the authority.

For several years the authority declined to entertain his application before finally accepting in 1994 that it was statutorily bound to make an award. During 1995, the authority wrote to the complainant saying that it had decided to pay him an allowance of £50 a year with effect from March 26, 1995.

The Pensions Ombudsman subsequently upheld a complaint that the authority had been guilty of maladministration in originally refusing the complainant a benefit to which he was entitled and that the actual exercise of its discretion by the authority had been flawed.

The authority appealed from that determination, inter alia, on the ground that the Pensions Ombudsman did not have jurisdiction to entertain the complaint since the scheme of allowances contained in Part L did not amount to "an occupa-

tional pension scheme" within the meaning of section 1 of the 1993 Act.

His Lordship said that he began with the intuitive predisposition to find that a scheme of that nature, that is, one whereby the employer bound itself to pay compensation on a no fault basis on termination of employment as a result of injury sustained or disease contracted in an employment contract, was not an occupational pension scheme.

It was, however, difficult to say that such a scheme did not provide "benefits in the form of pensions or otherwise, payable on the termination of service".

Those words, as Lord Justice Millett pointed out in *Westminster City Council v Haywood* ([1998] Ch 377), were of wide ambit.

Other examples might be given of schemes or arrangements, not otherwise obviously pension schemes, which were potentially within those words for example, in an employment contract for agreed damages in the event of dismissal before the expiry of the contractual employment term, or for compen-

sation for termination of the employment contract on the ground of redundancy.

His Lordship said that it was not open to him to hold that some gloss could be put on the words "benefits ... payable on termination of service" so as, without more, to exclude from their ambit payments of that nature.

On behalf of the authority, it was submitted that the limiting words in the definition lay in the concluding words "earners with qualifying service in an employment of any such description or category".

The phrase "qualifying service" was not defined in the 1993 Act, but it was pointed out that its use elsewhere in the Act pointed to a concept of service of some identifiable and relevant duration, rather than to the mere fact of employment itself.

His Lordship said that one of the critical functions of the definition was to provide a criterion for determining when preservation of benefits was mandatory.

It was difficult to say why the preservation requirements should be held to apply to benefits which did not accrue by reference to the duration of service but to which eligibility was by virtue of the mere fact of employment itself.

However, the weakness of the point was revealed by the consideration that, if any period of service, however small, was stipulated as a condition of eligibility to the benefit, a scheme providing for that benefit would, on this argument, be an occupational scheme whereas if no period was stipulated, the scheme would not be.

That seemed arbitrary, especially where the condition of eligibility (the suffering of an injury or the contracting of a disease as a result of something required by the employment) necessarily implied that the employment would have lasted for more than a seasonal temporary period.

"Qualifying service" only meant "such service as qualifies" the earner for the benefit in question.

Solicitors: Mr David Drycock, Swansea; Thompsons.

# Proving private hire offence

**Reading Borough Council v Ahmad**

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Kennedy

[Judgment November 11]

In order to prove the commission of an offence under section 46 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 it was necessary to prove that a defendant knew that he was in a controlled district, was driving a vehicle licensed for private hire, and that he was not the holder of a private hire vehicle driver's licence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in allowing an appeal by Reading Borough Council, by way of case stated, against the dismissal by Reading Justices, on June 25, 1998 of an information laid against Mr Heekah Ahmad on March 12, 1998, that he had driven a licensed private hire vehicle in a controlled area without a current private hire vehicle driver's licence under section 51 of the 1976 Act.

On September 20, an enforcement officer in Reading observed Mr Ahmad collect two men and two women in a car with a Reading private hire vehicle licence plate.

The justices found that it was a regular arrangement between the friends and that no money was exchanged. The justices had accepted Mr Ahmad's submission that he did not know that he needed a private hire vehicle driver's licence to drive the car in a private capacity when no fare was involved. The justices concluded that he had not knowingly contravened the section.

Mr Thomas Leaper for Reading; Mr Ahmad - unrepresented and did not appear.

MR JUSTICE MITCHELL said that it was irrelevant to consider whether Mr Ahmad was acting as a driver of a private hire vehicle, given the fact that he had not driven the car in a private capacity when no fare was involved. The justices found that he had not knowingly contravened the section.

Mr Thomas Leaper for Reading; Mr Ahmad - unrepresented and did not appear.

MR JUSTICE MITCHELL said that it was irrelevant to consider whether Mr Ahmad was acting as a driver of a private hire vehicle, given the fact that he had not driven the car in a private capacity when no fare was involved. The justices found that he had not knowingly contravened the section.

referred to the nature of the vehicle rather than the particular activities in which it was used. *Perkins v Boyes* ([1997] RTR 226).

In his Lordships' judgment, in order to establish guilt under section 46(2) the prosecution had to prove that the defendant knew he was in a controlled district, that he knew the vehicle was one licensed for private hire, and that he knew he was not the holder of a private hire vehicle driver's licence.

In proving knowledge of the above three points it did not matter that the defendant knew that he was committing an offence. Any finding regarding the respondent's state of mind was irrelevant to the issue of whether he had knowingly contravened section 46(1)(b).

Since the justices made no finding on whether Mr Ahmad knew he was committing an offence, the matter was remitted on that point.

Lord Justice Rose agreed.

Solicitor: Mr Richard Taylor, Reading.

A READER OFFER THE TIMES

## Call far-flung family or friends FREE at Christmas

### 30 minutes of four-way conversation

Every reader of *The Times* has the chance to talk with up to three other people on one call for half-an-hour FREE this Christmas. One person on your Conference Call can be at any of the international destinations listed in yesterday's paper. Call 0800 77 88 77 and a BT Conference Call co-ordinator will give you a Freephone number. If you are taking up the offer of an international leg, the co-ordinator will dial out to the international participant and join them to your Conference Call on the date and time you have arranged to make it. You just need a normal telephone to take advantage of this offer and four of the six tokens published this week. You can make the call anytime between Monday, December 21 and Sunday, January 31.

BT CONFERENCE CALL TOKEN 5

# Pub tie enforceable despite EC law

**Entrepreneur Pub Company (CPL) Ltd v Price**

Before Mr Justice Neuberger

[Judgment November 18]

A provision in a lease of a public house which allowed for an increase in rent should rise on the sale of the business, could be enforced even on the assumption that the tenant had breached article 85 of the EC Treaty. Such a provision was not reliant on illegality nor was it necessarily anti-competitive.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in the Chancery Division in an application by the plaintiffs, Entrepreneur Pub Company (CPL) Ltd, for summary judgment against the defendant, Gerard Vincent Price.

Article 85 prohibits "... all agreements ... which have as their object the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the Common Market, and in particular those which: (a) directly or indirectly fix purchase or selling prices ... (b) limit or control ... markets ... (c) share markets or sources of supply."

Nicholas Dowling, QC and Mr Martin Rodger for the plaintiffs; Mr Stephen Jourdan for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that on August 11, 1994, the plaintiff granted a lease to the defendant of a public house in Windlesham, Surrey.

The rent payable under the lease was £30,000 a year subject to review to the market rent every fifth anniversary of the term. The lease also contained provisions which restricted the defendant so far as the beer and other stock which he could sell from premises.

Clauses 6(3) provided: "The company may ... purchase in whole or in part any releasing obligation of the lessee and/or any obligation of the lessee to stock and expose for sale certain products."

Clause 6(7) provided: "If at any time ... the company shall serve a

release notice or for any reason the company shall be unable to enforce any of the purchasing obligations to stock and expose for sale any product of the company ... then there shall be at the company's option upon or following any such occurrence an additional review of the rent."

In March 1998, the plaintiffs wrote to the defendant formally releasing him from the beer tie obligations under the terms of the lease and indicated their intention to implement clause 6(9).

The defendant contended that the plaintiffs were not entitled to review the rent on the basis that the tie provisions were void and unenforceable as a breach of article 85 of the EC Treaty and that clause 6(9) could not be implemented.

The plaintiffs accepted that the question of whether or not the provisions breached article 85 was not something that could be dealt with at the summary stage and agreed to his Lordship to proceed on the assumption that the tie provisions may be rendered void by article 85.

First, Mr Jourdan submitted that the plaintiffs could not succeed in establishing their right to a review under clause 6(9) because they had to rely on the illegality of the beer tie which followed the decisions in *Gibbs Mew plc v Gemmel* (unreported July 22, 1998) and *Tinsley v Milligan* ([1994] 1 AC 340) was not permissible.

His Lordship after citing *Passmore v Morland* ([1998] 4 All ER 468) with approval said even if the tie provisions were contrary to article 85, they might nevertheless be enforceable during the currency of the lease because of changes in the market, changes in the way in which the tie provisions were enforced or because of a change of identity of the landlord.

Accordingly, the notice under clause 6(9) had real effect; by releasing the tie provisions for the remainder of the lease the notice prevented them

from ever becoming enforceable due to a change in circumstances.

Second, Mr Jourdan contended that it was not open to the plaintiffs to seek to implement clauses 6(8) and (9) because they were so inextricably linked to the illegal tie provisions that they were themselves unenforceable.

His Lordship said that he had been referred to two cases which contained observations which were directly on point: *Entrepreneur Pub Co v Mason* ([1993] 2 EGLR 189) and *Entrepreneur Estates (GI) Ltd v Boyes* ([1997] 2 EGLR 112).

The guidance from the two cases confirmed and, in his Lordship's judgment, neither provided much assistance.

Both parties claimed to derive support from *Esso v Petrolium Co Ltd v Harcourt* (1932) 143 All ER 529 (Stourport) Ltd ([1968] AC 269).

In that case, there was a 21-year mortgage which had a provision, the so-called agreement, to the effect that the mortgagee could only purchase petrol supplies from the mortgagee and another provision whereby the mortgage was precluded from redeeming the mortgage before the expiry of the 21-year period.

The House of Lords held that the so-called agreement was void as being an unlawful restraint of trade and that the restriction on early redemption was not effective because it was intended to bolster the so-called agreement.

His Lordship said that the instant case could be distinguished from *Esso* on the basis that: 1. Clauses 6(8) and (9) did not underwrite the tie provisions, whereas the agreement in *Esso* was intended to do just that in relation to the so-called agreement.

2. The decision in *Passmore* made it clear that the tie provisions were not inherently or permanently unenforceable unlike the so-called agreement in *Esso*.

3. Clauses 6(8) and (9) effectively enabled the financial position substantially to revert to what it would

be if the assumed unlawful tie provisions had not been in place; that could not be said of the anti-restraint in *Esso*.

4. Clauses 6(8) and (9) had a real commercial purpose even if implemented at a time when the tie provisions offended article 85, as the provisions might not offend in future.

5. Once the so-called agreement was rendered void, the tie provisions were seen to be unlawful, the anti-restraint provision had no discernible purpose.

Accordingly, his Lordship did not consider that clauses 6(8) and (9) should be held invalid merely because it could be said that they were only included because of the existence of unlawful tie provisions.

The final argument raised by Mr Jourdan was that, assuming that the tie provisions in the lease had breached article 85, clause 6(9) was anti-competitive in its effect because



Chris McGrath witnesses the end of National Hunt racing at Windsor
Jumpers silenced as money talks

I was the sort of day gravediggers hate... a bleak afternoon to keep away all but the most heartbroken mourners.

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: CLEVER REMARK (2.25 Exeter)
Next best: Arkley Royal (1.30 Sandown Park)



Runners in the Farewell Novices Hurdle take the final flight on the last day of National Hunt racing at Windsor yesterday

deeper dusk. With Nottingham having made a similar decision in 1996, and Lingfield to follow in the new year, the natural temptation is to treat yesterday's obsequies as a depressing augur for National Hunt, picking a path between its rural heritage and commercial responsibilities.

racecourse manager, protested yesterday that the confines of the 160-acre site, hemmed in by the river, exacerbated the problem's common to every dual-purpose track.

maybe 5,000 on New Year's Day - if we can race at all, that is. The public must vote with their feet to breathe life into jump racing.

Equally, of course, they cannot be run for charity. Perhaps the National Hunt review, reporting to the British Horseracing Board in the spring, can urge that these difficulties - mirrored in levels of sponsorship and corporate business - be given greater recognition by the Levy Board.

day, said: "It's a tragedy. I appreciate we can't compete with the bonanza they get in summer, but it's a different ball game. Jumping's not their priority and this was a fair accomplishment when we were told about it. Where's it going to stop? We have to keep jumping in safe hands."

Better horses, such as Game Spirit and Celtic Shot, have also graced Windsor and Terry Biddlecombe, saddling Heart for Henrietta Knight yesterday, added: "I've some great memories here. It's a very fair course, the fences are well presented and the ground is usually good."

THUNDERER
12.50 North Barnster. 1.20 Antillonemories.
1.50 Flagship Universalis. 2.25 Jutara. 2.55 Musical Sing. 3.30 HARKI (nap).
Timekeeper's top rating: 2.55 MUSICAL SING.

1.20 SEA CELLARS INTERNATIONAL HURDLE (22,878; 2m 7f) (14)
1.15 SPINE MARATHON 17 (6.5) M's P. Duffield 6-12.4.
2.4-5 STAMPH RIVAL 22 (6.5) P. Duffield 6-11.0.

WHERE'S MY TICKET?
RUGBY HOSPITALITY 1999 LTD
THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE A TICKET FOR THE RUGBY WORLD CUP 1999

1.50 TARKA NOVICES CHASE (25,114; 2m 11f 110yd) (5)
1.6-30 NORTH MILKMAN 16 (8) R. Allen 7-11.2.
1.7-14 SERRIM CORIDA 24 (8) D. Day 7-11.1.

2.55 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (23,678; 2m 10f) (7)
1.3-51 MUSICAL SING 4 (5) P. Hodge 5-11.5.
1.3-52 FRANK BURY 22 (4) J. O'Connell 5-11.2.

3.30 MERLIN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HURDLE (21,975; 2m 11f 110yd) (10)
1.551 NATIVE FINE 17 (8.5) P. Hodge 6-12.0.
1.552 WINTER FLOWER 14 (8.5) M. P. Page 4-11.9.

2.15 KISS CABLE NOVICES HURDLE (22,801; 3m 11f 110yd) (16)
1.129-130 TULY 200 (6.5) A. Shaver 8-12.4.
1.131 PARTY ANIMAL 22 (6.5) J. Whelan 6-11.4.

1.20 (2m 11f) ch 1, Coon Performance (J. Calvey, 50-1), 2.1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9.10.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20.21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42.43.44.45.46.47.48.49.50.51.52.53.54.55.56.57.58.59.60.61.62.63.64.65.66.67.68.69.70.71.72.73.74.75.76.77.78.79.80.81.82.83.84.85.86.87.88.89.90.91.92.93.94.95.96.97.98.99.100.101.102.103.104.105.106.107.108.109.110.111.112.113.114.115.116.117.118.119.120.121.122.123.124.125.126.127.128.129.130.131.132.133.134.135.136.137.138.139.140.141.142.143.144.145.146.147.148.149.150.151.152.153.154.155.156.157.158.159.160.161.162.163.164.165.166.167.168.169.170.171.172.173.174.175.176.177.178.179.180.181.182.183.184.185.186.187.188.189.190.191.192.193.194.195.196.197.198.199.200.201.202.203.204.205.206.207.208.209.210.211.212.213.214.215.216.217.218.219.220.221.222.223.224.225.226.227.228.229.230.231.232.233.234.235.236.237.238.239.240.241.242.243.244.245.246.247.248.249.250.251.252.253.254.255.256.257.258.259.260.261.262.263.264.265.266.267.268.269.270.271.272.273.274.275.276.277.278.279.280.281.282.283.284.285.286.287.288.289.290.291.292.293.294.295.296.297.298.299.300.301.302.303.304.305.306.307.308.309.310.311.312.313.314.315.316.317.318.319.320.321.322.323.324.325.326.327.328.329.330.331.332.333.334.335.336.337.338.339.340.341.342.343.344.345.346.347.348.349.350.351.352.353.354.355.356.357.358.359.360.361.362.363.364.365.366.367.368.369.370.371.372.373.374.375.376.377.378.379.380.381.382.383.384.385.386.387.388.389.390.391.392.393.394.395.396.397.398.399.400.401.402.403.404.405.406.407.408.409.410.411.412.413.414.415.416.417.418.419.420.421.422.423.424.425.426.427.428.429.430.431.432.433.434.435.436.437.438.439.440.441.442.443.444.445.446.447.448.449.450.451.452.453.454.455.456.457.458.459.460.461.462.463.464.465.466.467.468.469.470.471.472.473.474.475.476.477.478.479.480.481.482.483.484.485.486.487.488.489.490.491.492.493.494.495.496.497.498.499.500.501.502.503.504.505.506.507.508.509.510.511.512.513.514.515.516.517.518.519.520.521.522.523.524.525.526.527.528.529.530.531.532.533.534.535.536.537.538.539.540.541.542.543.544.545.546.547.548.549.550.551.552.553.554.555.556.557.558.559.560.561.562.563.564.565.566.567.568.569.570.571.572.573.574.575.576.577.578.579.580.581.582.583.584.585.586.587.588.589.590.591.592.593.594.595.596.597.598.599.600.601.602.603.604.605.606.607.608.609.610.611.612.613.614.615.616.617.618.619.620.621.622.623.624.625.626.627.628.629.630.631.632.633.634.635.636.637.638.639.640.641.642.643.644.645.646.647.648.649.650.651.652.653.654.655.656.657.658.659.660.661.662.663.664.665.666.667.668.669.670.671.672.673.674.675.676.677.678.679.680.681.682.683.684.685.686.687.688.689.690.691.692.693.694.695.696.697.698.699.700.701.702.703.704.705.706.707.708.709.710.711.712.713.714.715.716.717.718.719.720.721.722.723.724.725.726.727.728.729.730.731.732.733.734.735.736.737.738.739.740.741.742.743.744.745.746.747.748.749.750.751.752.753.754.755.756.757.758.759.760.761.762.763.764.765.766.767.768.769.770.771.772.773.774.775.776.777.778.779.780.781.782.783.784.785.786.787.788.789.790.791.792.793.794.795.796.797.798.799.800.801.802.803.804.805.806.807.808.809.810.811.812.813.814.815.816.817.818.819.820.821.822.823.824.825.826.827.828.829.830.831.832.833.834.835.836.837.838.839.840.841.842.843.844.845.846.847.848.849.850.851.852.853.854.855.856.857.858.859.860.861.862.863.864.865.866.867.868.869.870.871.872.873.874.875.876.877.878.879.880.881.882.883.884.885.886.887.888.889.890.891.892.893.894.895.896.897.898.899.900.901.902.903.904.905.906.907.908.909.910.911.912.913.914.915.916.917.918.919.920.921.922.923.924.925.926.927.928.929.930.931.932.933.934.935.936.937.938.939.940.941.942.943.944.945.946.947.948.949.950.951.952.953.954.955.956.957.958.959.960.961.962.963.964.965.966.967.968.969.970.971.972.973.974.975.976.977.978.979.980.981.982.983.984.985.986.987.988.989.990.991.992.993.994.995.996.997.998.999.1000.

2.25 49'S CITY OF EXETER CHALLENGE BOWL HURDLE CHASE (SHOW RACE) (27,400; 2m 7f 110yd) (7)
1.4-30 ALDWIN 27 (6.5) J. Whelan 6-11.0.
1.4-31 PERENNIAL 22 (6.5) J. Whelan 6-11.0.

1.10 SIDNEY PHILLIPS FOR PUBS HURDLE CHASE (23,165; 2m 3f) (5)
1.5-0 PERIATICS 11 (6.5) T. Heathorn 9-11.10.
1.5-1 INFLUENCE PEDLER 22 (6.5) M. R. George 5-11.5.

1.40 PENCOED SELLING HURDLE (21,688; 2m 10f) (12)
1.1-01 CADBURY CASTLE 16 (6.0) S. G. Charles 5-10-12.
1.1-02 PRINCESS 7 (6.5) M. Day 7-11.5.

2.15 KISS CABLE NOVICES HURDLE CHASE (NOTE TRIFURCA RACE) (22,801; 3m 11f 110yd) (16)
1.129-130 TULY 200 (6.5) A. Shaver 8-12-4.
1.131 PARTY ANIMAL 22 (6.5) J. Whelan 6-11-4.

1.20 (2m 11f) ch 1, Coon Performance (J. Calvey, 50-1), 2.1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9.10.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20.21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42.43.44.45.46.47.48.49.50.51.52.53.54.55.56.57.58.59.60.61.62.63.64.65.66.67.68.69.70.71.72.73.74.75.76.77.78.79.80.81.82.83.84.85.86.87.88.89.90.91.92.93.94.95.96.97.98.99.100.101.102.103.104.105.106.107.108.109.110.111.112.113.114.115.116.117.118.119.120.121.122.123.124.125.126.127.128.129.130.131.132.133.134.135.136.137.138.139.140.141.142.143.144.145.146.147.148.149.150.151.152.153.154.155.156.157.158.159.160.161.162.163.164.165.166.167.168.169.170.171.172.173.174.175.176.177.178.179.180.181.182.183.184.185.186.187.188.189.190.191.192.193.194.195.196.197.198.199.200.201.202.203.204.205.206.207.208.209.210.211.212.213.214.215.216.217.218.219.220.221.222.223.224.225.226.227.228.229.230.231.232.233.234.235.236.237.238.239.240.241.242.243.244.245.246.247.248.249.250.251.252.253.254.255.256.257.258.259.260.261.262.263.264.265.266.267.268.269.270.271.272.273.274.275.276.277.278.279.280.281.282.283.284.285.286.287.288.289.290.291.292.293.294.295.296.297.298.299.300.301.302.303.304.305.306.307.308.309.310.311.312.313.314.315.316.317.318.319.320.321.322.323.324.325.326.327.328.329.330.331.332.333.334.335.336.337.338.339.340.341.342.343.344.345.346.347.348.349.350.351.352.353.354.355.356.357.358.359.360.361.362.363.364.365.366.367.368.369.370.371.372.373.374.375.376.377.378.379.380.381.382.383.384.385.386.387.388.389.390.391.392.393.394.395.396.397.398.399.400.401.402.403.404.405.406.407.408.409.410.411.412.413.414.415.416.417.418.419.420.421.422.423.424.425.426.427.428.429.430.431.432.433.434.435.436.437.438.439.440.441.442.443.444.445.446.447.448.449.450.451.452.453.454.455.456.457.458.459.460.461.462.463.464.465.466.467.468.469.470.471.472.473.474.475.476.477.478.479.480.481.482.483.484.485.486.487.488.489.490.491.492.493.494.495.496.497.498.499.500.501.502.503.504.505.506.507.508.509.510.511.512.513.514.515.516.517.518.519.520.521.522.523.524.525.526.527.528.529.530.531.532.533.534.535.536.537.538.539.540.541.542.543.544.545.546.547.548.549.550.551.552.553.554.555.556.557.558.559.560.561.562.563.564.565.566.567.568.569.570.571.572.573.574.575.576.577.578.579.580.581.582.583.584.585.586.587.588.589.590.591.592.593.594.595.596.597.598.599.600.601.602.603.604.605.606.607.608.609.610.611.612.613.614.615.616.617.618.619.620.621.622.623.624.625.626.627.628.629.630.631.632.633.634.635.636.637.638.639.640.641.642.643.644.645.646.647.648.649.650.651.652.653.654.655.656.657.658.659.660.661.662.663.664.665.666.667.668.669.670.671.672.673.674.675.676.677.678.679.680.681.682.683.684.685.686.687.688.689.690.691.692.693.694.695.696.697.698.699.700.701.702.703.704.705.706.707.708.709.710.711.712.713.714.715.716.717.718.719.720.721.722.723.724.725.726.727.728.729.730.731.732.733.734.735.736.737.738.739.740.741.742.743.744.745.746.747.748.749.750.751.752.753.754.755.756.757.758.759.760.761.762.763.764.765.766.767.768.769.770.771.772.773.774.775.776.777.778.779.780.781.782.783.784.785.786.787.788.789.790.791.792.793.794.795.796.797.798.799.800.801.802.803.804.805.806.807.808.809.810.811.812.813.814.815.816.817.818.819.820.821.822.823.824.825.826.827.828.829.830.831.832.833.834.835.836.837.838.839.840.841.842.843.844.845.846.847.848.849.850.851.852.853.854.855.856.857.858.859.860.861.862.863.864.865.866.867.868.869.870.871.872.873.874.875.876.877.878.879.880.881.882.883.884.885.886.887.888.889.890.891.892.893.894.895.896.897.898.899.900.901.902.903.904.905.906.907.908.909.910.911.912.913.914.915.916.917.918.919.920.921.922.923.924.925.926.927.928.929.930.931.932.933.934.935.936.937.938.939.940.941.942.943.944.945.946.947.948.949.950.951.952.953.954.955.956.957.958.959.960.961.962.963.964.965.966.967.968.969.970.971.972.973.974.975.976.977.978.979.980.981.982.983.984.985.986.987.988.989.990.991.992.993.994.995.996.997.998.999.1000.

THUNDERER
12.40 Brumals. 1.10 Jemaro. 1.40 Cadbury Castle. 2.15 Raqib. 2.45 Dancing Laird. 3.20 Manasils. 3.50 Cassia.

1.10 SIDNEY PHILLIPS FOR PUBS HURDLE CHASE (23,165; 2m 3f) (5)
1.5-0 PERIATICS 11 (6.5) T. Heathorn 9-11.10.
1.5-1 INFLUENCE PEDLER 22 (6.5) M. R. George 5-11.5.

1.40 PENCOED SELLING HURDLE (21,688; 2m 10f) (12)
1.1-01 CADBURY CASTLE 16 (6.0) S. G. Charles 5-10-12.
1.1-02 PRINCESS 7 (6.5) M. Day 7-11.5.

2.15 KISS CABLE NOVICES HURDLE CHASE (NOTE TRIFURCA RACE) (22,801; 3m 11f 110yd) (16)
1.129-130 TULY 200 (6.5) A. Shaver 8-12-4.
1.131 PARTY ANIMAL 22 (6.5) J. Whelan 6-11-4.

1.20 (2m 11f) ch 1, Coon Performance (J. Calvey, 50-1), 2.1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9.10.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20.21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42.43.44.45.46.47.48.49.50.51.52.53.54.55.56.57.58.59.60.61.62.63.64.65.66.67.68.69.70.71.72.73.74.75.76.77.78.79.80.81.82.83.84.85.86.87.88.89.90.91.92.93.94.95.96.97.98.99.100.101.102.103.104.105.106.107.108.109.110.111.112.113.114.115.116.117.118.119.120.121.122.123.124.125.126.127.128.129.130.131.132.133.134.135.136.137.138.139.140.141.142.143.144.145.146.147.148.149.150.151.152.153.154.155.156.157.158.159.160.161.162.163.164.165.166.167.168.169.170.171.172.173.174.175.176.177.178.179.180.181.182.183.184.185.186.187.188.189.190.191.192.193.194.195.196.197.198.199.200.201.202.203.204.205.206.207.208.209.210.211.212.213.214.215.216.217.218.219.220.221.222.223.224.225.226.227.228.229.230.231.232.233.234.235.236.237.238.239.240.241.242.243.244.245.246.247.248.249.250.251.252.253.254.255.256.257.258.259.260.261.262.263.264.265.266.267.268.269.270.271.272.273.274.275.276.277.278.279.280.281.282.283.284.285.286.287.288.289.290.291.292.293.294.295.296.297.298.299.300.301.302.303.304.305.306.307.308.309.310.311.312.313.314.315.316.317.318.319.320.321.322.323.324.325.326.327.328.329.330.331.332.333.334.335.336.337.338.339.340.341.342.343.344.345.346.347.348.349.350.351.352.353.354.355.356.357.358.359.360.361.362.363.364.365.366.367.368.369.370.371.372.373.374.375.376.377.378.379.380.381.382.383.384.385.386.387.388.389.390.391.392.393.394.395.396.397.398.399.400.401.402.403.404.405.406.407.408.409.410.411.412.413.414.415.416.417.418

CRICKET: VICTORIA FIXTURE OFFERS LITTLE SCOPE FOR EXPERIMENT

# Crawley facing threat from policy change

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

VICTORIA are taking a disdainful view of the four-day game against England, which starts here tomorrow, by resting their seven senior players. Shane Warne among them. The touring team, however, is in no position either to take offence or to take things similarly easy.

For England, this game is a staging post that they must put to the best possible use before returning next week to an Ashes series in which they are fortunate to be trailing Australia only 1-0. Quite how they will achieve this is today taking a selection committee now choosing from an oversized squad of 18. They have no scope for sentiment, no spaces to spare for the likes of Peter Such, a cheerful and uncomplaining tourist who may yet go home having played only five days' cricket in Australia. The management, while sympathetic, needs to prioritise.

Alec Stewart, the captain, plainly needs some runs and must play. Even his instinctive verbal defence mechanism

relaxes enough to admit this much. He has batted at length against a bowling machine this week, his father, Micky, on hand to observe, but he knows there is no substitute for the real thing.

Stewart wisely wants a rest from wicketkeeping duties, after back-to-back Test matches, so Warren Hegg — like Such, one of the forgotten men of this mission — will be recalled to duty. There should also be a welcome opportunity for Ben Hollis, who has played no first-class cricket on tour.

Hollis is a borderline selection in the party and needs some stirring early performance to persuade those in charge that his all-round talents should be preferred at No 7 to either a seventh batsman or a fifth bowler. After straining a groin in the festival game that opened the tour, he has waited in vain for the chance.

Now fully fit and doubtless

thoroughly fed up with endless net sessions, Hollis is likely to play here as one of only three seam bowlers. The four who combined effectively in the Perth Test will probably all stand down, though it does not follow that they will be reunited in Adelaide next week.

Dominic Cork is plainly vulnerable, either to the return of Angus Fraser or the spin of Robert Croft, perhaps maybe both. At this stage, however, England's likeliest balance for the third Test would see Croft as one of four bowlers, with Graeme Hick usurping John Crawley as the seventh batsman.

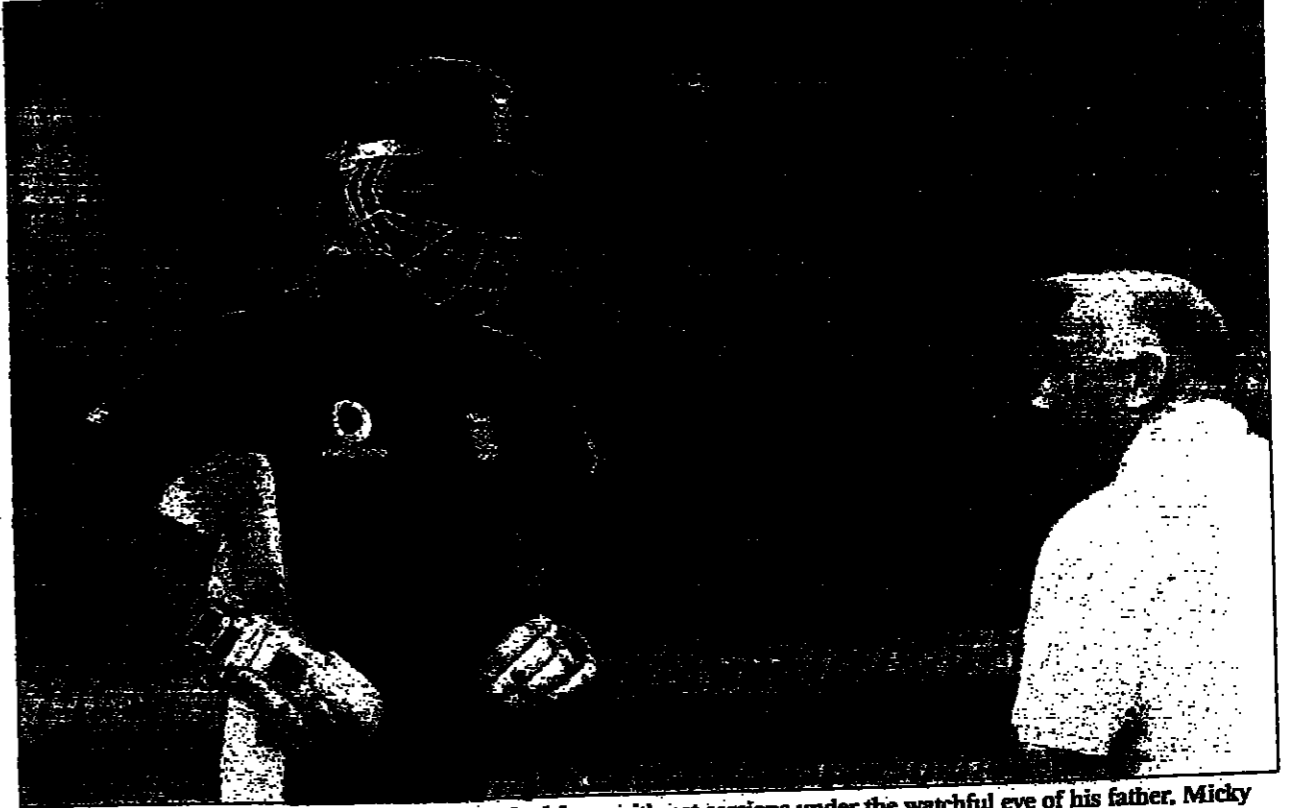
If that occurs, this will represent an about-face of speed and magnitude that Crawley may find hard to swallow. His inclusion on the tour, ahead of Hick, was the most controversial of selection issues. Now it is set to be reversed on the strength of one innings.

Hick stood in for Graham

Thorpe in Perth and batted quite brilliantly for 68 in the second innings. Crawley failed twice, continuing the downward spiral of his fortunes on this tour.

Thorpe still has to prove that he is fit enough to reclaim his place and accepts that he must play against Victoria to do so. He remains fretful over the state of his back and spent most of the 3½-hour flight from Perth yesterday standing up. Encouragingly, however, he had suffered no serious reaction from a practice session on Wednesday.

Once they settle on their personnel, England have to work on their self-esteem, an area that tends to suffer grievously when a team loses a Test match halfway through its intended course. Graham Gooch, the manager, concedes the difficulty. "It's tough for them," he said, "but they must go out believing in themselves. We have played way below par so far and we have to get that right. We have spoken to individuals, reinforcing a few



Stewart has been trying to improve his wretched form with net sessions under the watchful eye of his father, Micky

things, and I just hope they'll put them into practice."

Victoria have imitated the attitude of many English counties to tourist fixtures by choosing a virtual shadow side. Damien Fleming, Matthew Elliott and Paul Reiffel are three familiar names missing, along with Ian Harvey, David Saker

and Darren Berry. Officially, all are being rested to recover from niggling injuries, but different reasoning is behind the omission of Warne.

His comeback has so far been anticlimactic. His eight wickets at club and state level being taken at 46 runs apiece. At last, it is being acknow-

ledged here that he cannot perform miracles to order.

Wisely, Warne is being kept away from the touring side, who could only gain confidence from seeing him below par, and the earliest he could now return to the Australia side is for the Boxing Day Test here in Melbourne. More

likely, he will not play until the spinning pitch at Sydney a week later; just possibly, he will miss the entire series.

VICTORIA: Steve, B. Hogg, J. Anderson, G. Edgar, S. Croft, G. Vogler, J. Dawson, A. Gibbs, M. Innes, J. Baker, M. Mori, P. Roach, B. Williams.

ENGLAND XI (probable): M. Atherton, M. Butler, A. Stewart (captain), G. Thorpe, M. Ramprakash, G. Hick, B. Hollis, W. Hegg, R. Croft, D. Hoadley, A. Fraser.

# England may have missed best opening

Ramprakash is showing the mental strength that is the first requirement of a Test batsman

There is no gainsaying a seven-wicket defeat, the margin by which England lost the second Test match on Monday, nor the fact that it gave Australia their eighteenth victory in the last 30 Ashes matches as against England's four, nor that it came in only 2½ days. I have a nasty feeling, too, that England may now have passed up their best chance of the series.

In a curious way, the pitch in Perth could have been what they were looking for. By being so awkward, with steep bounce and ongoing lateral movement, it reduced the gap between the two sides. Whereas it would take an eternal optimist to see England bowling Australia out twice on anything like a normal pitch at Adelaide, where the third Test starts a week tomorrow, they could have done so over and over again in Perth, where no batsman on either side was ever really "in".

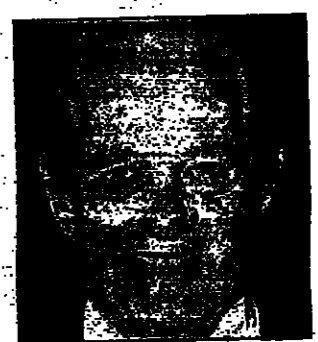
As a great player of fast bowling, even in the fiery furnaces of the Caribbean, Graham Gooch, now the England manager, found the shortcomings of his batsmen painfully hard to take. He looked on in horror as one after another fell sparring compulsively, nervously and no doubt perhaps needlessly at the rising off-side ball.

In fairness to England, Justin Langer, who, as a Western Australian, knew the pitch best of all and might have been expected to handle it better than anyone, was out cheaply twice; and there was no difference between the way in which he fended a straightforward chance to second slip in Australia's first innings and was caught at first slip in their second than the way England were getting out.

It is the way that batsmen always have got out and always will to the flying ball, whether it is being delivered by Lillee and Thomson, or Holding and Roberts, or Snow and Willis, or Gillespie and Fleming or Alex Tudor. Such matches develop into slip-catching contests, another department in which Australia are much the sounder. The fact remains, though, that Ramprakash has now batted for 114 hours in the last two England Test matches in Perth and scored 72, 42, 26 and 47 not out and, if he can do it, why can't the others?

Coming in down the order — three times at No 6 and once at No 7 — Ramprakash has batted mosty when the ball has not been quite as hard as it was when it was new and he has managed very little in the way of attacking strokes. Last Monday, too, as he had at Brisbane, when he was also left without a partner, he took a single off the first ball of an over, leaving Mullally, the last man in, to his fate. That was bad cricket, compounded by a ghastly stroke from Mullally, but Ramprakash is showing the mental strength that Gooch knows to be one of a Test batsman's first requirements. The others are not. He is also a par-

## JOHN WOODCOCK



ticularly natural player, which has to be a help when it comes to keeping out of the sort of trouble that was around in Perth.

It is taking longer than it should to find a genuinely fast and consistently effective English bowler of West Indian extraction. Devon Malcolm has come nearest to it so far, but after helping to win a couple of Test matches — one at the Oval and the other in Adelaide — he has dropped out of the picture. If Tudor stays fit, he could, just could, fit the bill. He tickled up even the most battle-hardened of the Australians in Perth and obviously had fun doing so. He has height, pace and, on this evidence, a nice rhythm and he now has the confidence of a flying start. He has youth on his side, plenty of experience and he will never want for encouragement, but he cannot take Perth's bouncy castle round

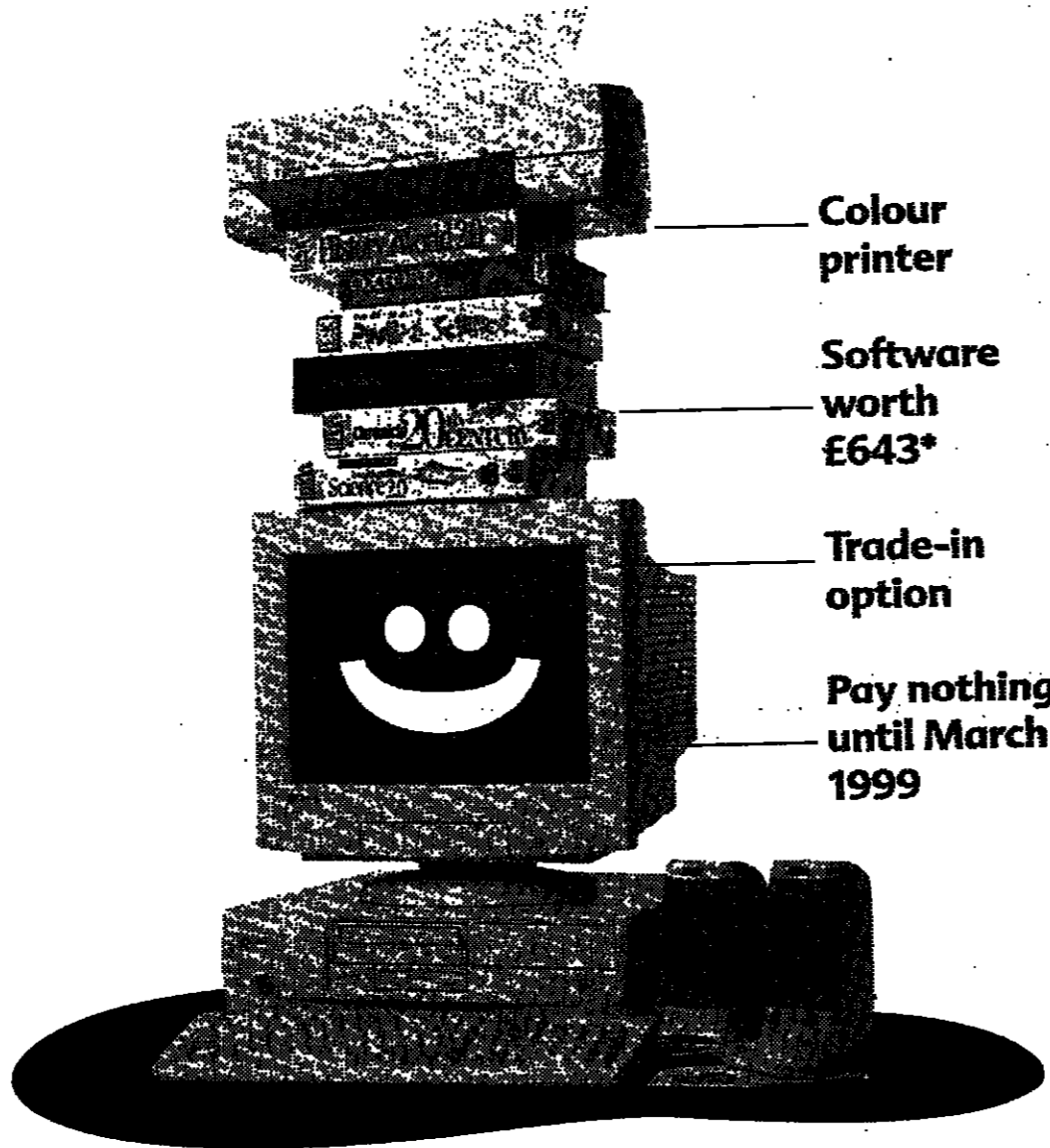
Darrell Hair, the Australian umpire, has decided not to make himself available for the forthcoming matches against Sri Lanka. The move avoids a possible clash with Sri Lanka officials over comments made in his book about Muttiah Muralitharan's bowling action. Hair no-balled the off-spinner seven times in a Test match at Melbourne in 1995.

with him and Adelaide, if he plays there, will provide a much more arduous test.

Of the advantages that Australia have at the moment, the one England could most do with, I think, is confidence: the confidence that wins matches, creates chances, makes the opposition feel inferior, makes the difference between hitting or missing the stumps when there is a chance of a run-out, catches catches, survives crises and takes no prisoners. Australia are supported, as well, by a press that criticises England with a relentless and misanthropic that I have not known before in nearly 50 years of coming here.

It is not so much a case of being ungracious in victory as obsessed with what is vernacularly-known as Pommie-bashing and it makes Gooch all the more frantic when his players keep repeating the same mistakes. On my O'Reilly and my Maitley long ago! When the need arose to criticise England, these two great cricketers-sim-journalists would do it with a pinch of compassion and a splash of humour.

Lines now open on Sunday 6th & 13th December 12pm-6pm



Colour printer

Software worth £643\*

Trade-in option

Pay nothing until March 1999

# Stacks more reasons to get your PC from Gateway.

Pick up an award-winning Gateway G6-350SP PC for Christmas and we'll add a host of extras including 12 great software titles, a colour printer, interest-free credit and built-in obsolescence protection. All for just £1210.25 (including VAT and delivery). Call us now on **0800 74 2000**.

### Your Gateway Software worth £643

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Britannica</li> <li>• Oxford Reference Shelf</li> <li>• Pinball Science</li> <li>• History of the World 2.0</li> <li>• Encyclopaedia of Science</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronicle of the 20th Century</li> <li>• Choice of Gateway Software Bundles</li> <li>• Arcadia</li> <li>• Source or Young Scholar</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microsoft® Home* Essentials 98</li> <li>• MS® Word 97</li> <li>• MS Works 4.5</li> <li>• MS Money 98</li> <li>• MS Puzzle Collection</li> <li>• MS Encarta® World Atlas 98</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|

### YOUR G6-350SP PC PACKAGE

- Intel® Pentium® II Processor, 350MHz
- 512KB L2 Cache
- Intel® 440BX AGP-set
- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM, expandable to 256MB
- 6.4GB 9.5ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- 13X min/32X max 90ms CD-ROM
- NVIDIA Riva 3D AGP Graphics w/ 8MB SDRAM
- Sound Blaster™ AudioPCI™ 64D
- Altec® Lansing GCS100 Speakers
- Epson® Stylus 440 Colour Printer
- Telepath II V.90 Winmodem\*
- 17" EV700 0.28dp Monitor†
- ATX Desktop Case
- MS Windows® 98

£999 (£1210.25 including VAT & delivery)

Let's talk about your  **Gateway** [www.gateway.com/uk](http://www.gateway.com/uk)

Gateway Stores: Croydon The Whitgift Centre Kingston The Bentall Centre Covent Garden 10 Bedford Street  
Gateway Europe Headquarters • Clonsilla Industrial Estate • Dublin 17 • Ireland Sales Phone Lines Open Monday to Friday 9am-10pm, Saturday 9am-6pm

©1998 Gateway 2000 Europe. All rights reserved. Gateway, YourWare and the Gateway stylized logo are trademarks of Gateway 2000 Inc. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of the Intel Corporation. All other brands and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All sales subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions (available on request) and limited warranty. All prices and configurations are subject to change without notice or obligation. All prices are quoted in Sterling. The "Microsoft Home Essentials 98" and "MS Word 97" are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Performance will vary depending on your local conditions. Trade-in offers and peripherals listed here are sold only with a purchase of a Gateway PC. Gateway's standard practice is to measure memory using the CRT size. Actual memory may be approx. 12% less. \*Maximum throughput. Performance will vary depending on your local conditions. †Trade-in available at any time between the first day of the 24th month and the last day of the 48th month after delivery of YourWare product. Trade-in credit is only available if you purchase a new Gateway product. Gateway will give you the average wholesale value on the YourWare product, in good condition as determined at Gateway's sole discretion, using the then current Ziff Davis Guide to Used PCs ([www.ziffnet.co.uk/usedpc/](http://www.ziffnet.co.uk/usedpc/)) or another similar commercially reasonable industry standard determined by Gateway. Other terms and conditions apply. Call our telephone number for details. Credit is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. Written quotations available on request. \*Including VAT. †Software supplied by Gateway Europe, not the retail licensee as displayed.

TENNIS

# Dispute fails to dampen magic of the Davis Cup

FROM ROB HUGHES IN MILAN

IN THE mist that hangs heavily around The Forum in Milan, you can sense, almost smell, what is coming today, tomorrow and Sunday: Italy and Sweden are the last of 131 countries attempting to win the Davis Cup and, although the event is saturated with history, it would not be Italy without tales of intrigue.

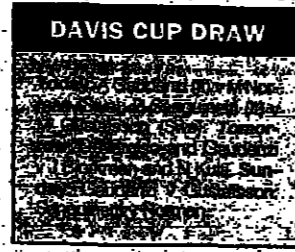
Diego Nargiso, the left-hander, who is being held back until the doubles on Saturday, swears that he has been misinterpreted. The red clay prepared for this final has played medium-fast in practice, according to the Swedes, but Nargiso is supposed to have said that the indoor surface will be watered to slow it down, presumably to enhance Latin guile against Swedish athleticism.

"No, no, I never put it like that," Nargiso said. "The only thing I said is that they had it in mind to put the water on the court on Sunday night and again on Wednesday night. Nothing more: if they water every day, it would be too slippery to play."

Magnus Gustafsson, the experienced Swede, who meets Davide Sanguinetti in the second singles this afternoon, shrugged off the question. "Whether they water or they don't, I don't think it's an advantage to us or them. If they want to do it, fine. It's up to them, but I like this surface, I enjoy every second."

There you have it: Italy's tennis players may try to conjure something from the ether, a crowd of 12,600 may rain passion down on the blond-boys from Scandinavia, but Gustafsson and his countrymen, almost perennial Davis Cup finalists, have nothing to do but focus their minds and see how the Italians handle the expectation.

After all, this is the first time in the long history of the Davis Cup that the final has come to Italy. They won it once, in 1976 in Chile. In addition, they have an 11-7 record against Sweden in the competition — for that matter, Italy's record is a prouder one of late than the United States, Australia or Spain, countries that fill the leading places in the men's world rankings.



Today, the final features two matches between players who have not faced each other before — Andrea Gaudenzi versus Magnus Norman, in the first singles, followed by Sanguinetti versus Gustafsson. Norman, at 22 the youngest member of the Sweden team, is hardly a rookie. His solid groundstrokes are familiar on the clay of Roland Garros. "He is ready for this challenge," Carl-Axel Hageskog, the Sweden team captain, said, "as ready as Gustafsson is."

Gustafsson has eased his way back from a shoulder operation. Sanguinetti, ranked No 48 in the world, has fear to conquer. "We are playing in Italy," he said. "So that's a lot of pressure. Really, I mean it, I'm nervous. But after five minutes on the court, this will be a dream come true. It's better to play in Italy than outside."

Gaudenzi, a year younger at 25, has a 16-8 Davis Cup record already. The clay will suit him because Gaudenzi has been schooled by the master of the surface, Thomas Muster. His pedigree — he was the world junior champion in 1990 — suggests a fair for the big occasion, but he is hampered by torn ligaments to both ankles and, as recently as October, the need for arthroscopic surgery in his shoulder.

Nevertheless, from lunchtime today until Sunday evening, there will be no excuses. The better man, the best country, will prevail, as it has through the mists of nearly 100 years of the Davis Cup.

Norman prepared

mockery of the British excuse that, despite £33 million profits from Wimbledon, it is the weather that stops us producing players who could compete at this level. Maybe, next season, Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski can put Great Britain back on the Davis Cup map.

Today, the final features two matches between players who have not faced each other before — Andrea Gaudenzi versus Magnus Norman, in the first singles, followed by Sanguinetti versus Gustafsson. Norman, at 22 the youngest member of the Sweden team, is hardly a rookie. His solid groundstrokes are familiar on the clay of Roland Garros. "He is ready for this challenge," Carl-Axel Hageskog, the Sweden team captain, said, "as ready as Gustafsson is."

Gustafsson has eased his way back from a shoulder operation. Sanguinetti, ranked No 48 in the world, has fear to conquer. "We are playing in Italy," he said. "So that's a lot of pressure. Really, I mean it, I'm nervous. But after five minutes on the court, this will be a dream come true. It's better to play in Italy than outside."

Gaudenzi, a year younger at 25, has a 16-8 Davis Cup record already. The clay will suit him because Gaudenzi has been schooled by the master of the surface, Thomas Muster. His pedigree — he was the world junior champion in 1990 — suggests a fair for the big occasion, but he is hampered by torn ligaments to both ankles and, as recently as October, the need for arthroscopic surgery in his shoulder.

Nevertheless, from lunchtime today until Sunday evening, there will be no excuses. The better man, the best country, will prevail, as it has through the mists of nearly 100 years of the Davis Cup.

## David Powell reports on another coup for organisers of the London Marathon

HAVING signed up the men's world record-holder for the next Flora London Marathon, race organisers announced yesterday that they have also secured the services of the hottest property in women's marathon running, Catherine McKiernan, from Ireland, who will return to London to defend her title on April 18.

McKiernan has moved up to the marathon distance with rare distinction, winning her first three races. In the latest, in Amsterdam last month, she recorded a time beaten only by four other women, despite less-than-ideal weather conditions. It was cold at the start and windy in the later stages.

If it appears slightly surprising that McKiernan has chosen London, given her remarks in Amsterdam on the relative merits of London and its spring rival, the Rotterdam Marathon, her decision underlines the buying power of the British event. A sizeable chunk of London's £1.25 million elite race budget has been used to bring in Ronaldo da Costa, of Brazil, who broke the men's world record in Berlin in September, and McKiernan.

In Amsterdam, McKiernan was on schedule to beat the women's world best of 2hr 20min 47sec, but the wind between 30 and 35 kilometres held her back. Despite that handicap, though, she recorded a time of 2hr 22min 23sec.

Given that London would probably deny her a protective shield of men — the women's and men's elite fields are run separately, unlike the Rotterdam Marathon — McKiernan appears to be sacrificing, or at least compromising, her chances of setting a world record in her next marathon. In Rotterdam last April, Tegla Loroupe, from Kenya, set the present world best in controversial circumstances, as she was paced and protected by men to the finish line.

"London is a good course, but I do not know whether it is a world-record course," McKiernan said in Amsterdam, when discussing which marathon might be her next and after benefiting from male



McKiernan celebrates winning the London Marathon at the first attempt this year

## McKiernan returns to defend her title

assistance. "The problem with London is that you cannot have male pacemakers and you need them."

Tim Hutchings, the London International race director, yesterday all but ruled out the use of male pacemakers for the women's race, which may be against the spirit of record attempts but is not against the laws. "While we have not discounted it completely, the London Marathon feels strongly it would be unfair if a world best was established in a women's only race using male pacemakers," he said.

"My feeling is that it will not happen, unless it becomes an issue driven by McKiernan. It would be stupid to pretend that London is as fast as Berlin or Rotterdam, but it has proven to be a world-record course in the past and has that potential." Ingrid Kristiansen's world record of 2hr 21min 6sec was set in London in 1985 and lasted 13 years until Loroupe broke it.

Joe Doonan, McKiernan's coach, asked to name the London Marathon, listed Rotterdam, Boston, Chicago and Berlin. When McKiernan ran London

for the first time last April, she opted for a tactical approach. She allowed others to get well ahead before hauling the leaders in and running away with the race in the last five miles, recording 2hr 20min 26sec. Then, she was still a relative novice; now that she has proven her reliability, it will be interesting to see whether she disregards the disadvantages of the London course or plays safe. Amsterdam convinced Doonan that she is "capable of the world record — we are sure of that now". London is waiting in keen anticipation.

SQUASH

## Nicol must beware the unsung warrior

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN DOHA, QATAR

PETER NICOL, the top seeded Scot who is seeking to complete a unique record by adding the World Open title to his world No 1 ranking, the British Open and the Commonwealth gold medal, faces an unexpected problem in the unseeded Stefan Castelleyn, of Belgium, in the semi-finals today.

The 25-year-old from Inverurie emerged safely from the battle of British left-handers yesterday — defeating Paul Johnson, the England No 1 and No 6 seed, 13-15, 15-4, 17-16, 15-9 in a 79-minute quarter-final — but he gave a tired-looking performance and knows that he must raise his game against Castelleyn, the conqueror of Rodney Eyles, the defending champion, and who yesterday defeated John White, of Scotland, 10-15, 15-13, 15-9, 17-15.

Nicol, who sometimes needs a meeting or two to get the measure of his opponents, has not encountered the Belgian since their junior days. "He is quick and will have nothing to lose, which will make him relaxed and dangerous," the Scot said. He will also have noted the clinical manner in which Jonathon Power, the No 2 seed, from Canada, always his likely final opponent here, overcame Ahmed Barada, the No 5 seed, from Egypt, 15-5, 15-2, 15-3 in only 29 minutes to earn a semi-final today against Anthony Hill, of Australia, a 13-15, 15-11, 15-10, 15-7 victor over Alex Gough, of Wales.

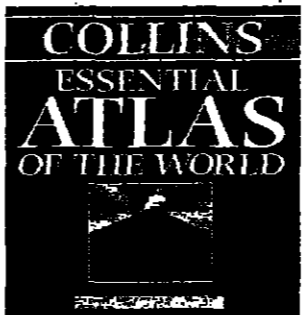
"Barada was totally overhyped for the match," Neil Harvey, Nicol's coach, said, perhaps seeking to play down the rising performance curve of the 24-year-old from Toronto, who had beaten Nicol six times in a row until the Scot stopped him in the Commonwealth Games final.

"People keep calling me world champion," Nicol said, "but there are two more difficult jobs to complete here before that becomes reality."

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

THE TIMES

# Millions of FREE books for schools



Today The Times, with The Sunday Times and Walkers crisps and snacks, offers you the chance to take part in Britain's biggest books giveaway with our Free Books for Schools promotion. This multi-million pound initiative will give every school the chance to gain a share of the millions of books for children that will be available free in the coming months. Developed in support of the National Year of Reading, which runs to August next year, its aim is simple: to help schools to replenish their libraries so pupils can read more books and expand their imaginations, creativity and curiosity. Anyone and everyone — parents, pupils, teachers, friends and relatives — can join in the scheme, simply by collecting tokens from The Times, The Sunday Times and Walkers snacks. There are more than 150 titles for schools to choose from, including novels, atlases,

picture books, audio and braille titles. Each book requires either 100, 250 or 500 tokens. The books are suitable for ages five to 16 and are divided into approximate reading abilities from key stage 1 to key stage 4, and P1 to S5 in Scotland. Participating schools simply select their free books from a list of approved titles and send off enough tokens for their order. Many of the titles can be ordered for as little as 100 tokens each. Between January and April next year, millions of Free Books for Schools tokens can be found on packets of Walkers crisps, Walkers Lites, Quavers and Cheetos. Tokens will also appear each day in The Times from January 4 and four tokens will be published in The Sunday Times each week from January 10. Tokens will also be printed in The Sun and the News of the World.

### THE TIMES SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

This form must be completed only by school teachers. To get your free books for schools kit to participate in the scheme, complete full details of your school in block capitals below and send form to: Free Books for Schools, Registrations, FREEPOST (LE5 004), Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7BR. Closing date February 28, 1999.

School name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Our nominated member of staff is \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position in school \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
 For information purposes only:  
 1. Please state your local education authority \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Please state the number of pupils at your school \_\_\_\_\_

**DON'T FORGET, REGISTER BEFORE DECEMBER 31 AND YOU WILL RECEIVE 250 STARTER TOKENS FREE**

Advertisement terms and conditions. 1 School registration closes on February 28, 1999. 2 The closing date for book claims is July 20, 1999. 3 This offer is only open to registered schools in the UK. We cannot accept claims from individuals or organisations other than registered schools. 4 Participating schools agree to nominate a member of staff who will administer the scheme in accordance with the terms and conditions. Full terms and conditions will be sent with your Free Books for Schools kit or can be obtained by calling the Free Books for Schools helpline 0845 6040312 between 9am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday. Calls will be charged at local rate. 5 Free starter tokens will be issued to all schools that register before December 31, 1998, and must be used with your school's first free books order. A maximum of 250 starter tokens can be used per school. 6 Books unavailable at the time of ordering will be dispatched within 10 weeks. 7 Promoter: News International, PO Box 493, Virginia Street, London E1 9AT, Walkers Snack Foods Ltd, Thurman, Leicestershire LE14 9BS.

FOOTBALL

Patmore is ready to prove point

David Powell on a striker hoping to fill his boots and erase the memory of rejection

Alec Stock's boots, the pair with which he scored in one of the biggest FA Cup shocks of them all, are mounted on the wall in a glass case at Yeovil Town.



FA CUP

If Yeovil are to strengthen their position as the non-League club with the greatest number of League scalps - 17 to date - Patmore is the player on whom they most depend.

Patmore, 27, has scored in each of the three rounds in which Yeovil have appeared and he believes that Northampton, from near the bottom of the Nationwide League second division, are set to become League scalp No 18.

Surviving the first round bore testimony to Yeovil's resilience, a recovery against West Auckland Town that spared a 16-year-old trainee on the local newspaper an awkward introduction to the world of journalism.

slate my Dad," Cotton Jr said. Cotton runs through the fabric of Yeovil: son in the press box; father on the bench; mother Jean, the club secretary.

"It is the same sort of atmosphere here we had 20 years ago, when Terry played," Jean Cotton said. "The dressing-room is brilliant." This is the work of Colin Lippiatt, appointed in succession to Graham Roberts, who vacated the manager's chair in February.

Unbeaten in 14 competitive matches - Lippiatt disregards the defeat by Woking in the Endsleigh Challenge Trophy on Tuesday, because he fielded a reserve team - Yeovil's only concern about the visit of Northampton

is their home form. Still to lose away this season, they have lost four times at Hush Park. The famous slope, on which Sunderland were dispatched 2-1 in the fourth round 50 seasons ago, has given way to way to development and the club resides in a new out-of-town stadium.



Warren peace: Patmore has plenty to smile about as he contemplates FA Cup success over his old club

a manager," Lippiatt said. "I felt I owed it to myself to give it a go."

is their home form. Still to lose away this season, they have lost four times at Hush Park. The famous slope, on which Sunderland were dispatched 2-1 in the fourth round 50 seasons ago, has given way to way to development and the club resides in a new out-of-town stadium.

"It is a beautiful stadium, but it nearly killed us," Bryan Moore, club director and historian, said. "Far too much money was spent on it. We were £750,000 in debt and we nearly went out of business."

Even 50 years ago, Yeovil's Cup run rescued them from going bust. After beating Sunderland, they lost 8-0 to Manchester United in front of 81,565 at Maine Road.



Dyke, the Yeovil goalkeeper, safely keeps the Sunderland attack at bay during the famous victory in 1949

Kinnear laughs off betting comments

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Football Association demanded an urgent explanation from Wimbledon yesterday after comments by Joe Kinnear, the club manager, which suggested that his players might have broken its rules on betting.

After the team's win over Chelsea in the Worthington Cup quarter-final, Kinnear said: "We were 66-1 [to win the competition] at the start of the season and I think a few of the lads had a few quid on."

Kinnear claimed yesterday that he had been misunderstood. "It is an absolute joke and it is very sad indeed. When I said the lads had a few quid on us, I was talking about friends of mine - not the players."

Under FA regulations, it is offence for players, managers or directors to bet on matches in which they are involved. The football pools are the only exception.

The chairman of the FA Premier League clubs yesterday set up a working party to examine the possibility of appointing full-time referees. Some clubs are understood to be concerned at the prospect of having some referees who are full-time - only five having so far indicated a willingness to give up their jobs while many others remain part-time.

Peter Leaver, the chief executive, reported back on the progress made by the Uefa task force set up to examine proposed changes to European club competitions next season. Leaver said that although it appeared that only six places would now be on offer for English teams - three in the revamped Champions' League and three in the merged Uefa Cup and Cup Winners' Cup competition - he would continue to press for more.

A limit of six places would mean that unless Manchester United or Chelsea win a European trophy, the club finishing fifth in the FA Cup Premier League would be denied a place unless they or one of the top four clubs won on the Worthington Cup or the FA Cup.

WORTHINGTON CUP: Semi-final: Sunderland v Luton Town; Tottenham Hotspur v Whitehawk. First legs to be played next week commencing January 26, second legs to be played week commencing February 16.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Corsie sets sights on complete recovery

■ BOWLS: A sequence of straight-sets victories swept Richard Corsie, Mark McMahon, Paul Foster and Greg Harlow into the semi-finals of the inaugural Glasgow Classic at the Kelvin Hall yesterday (David Rhys Jones writes). Corsie, who has been through a lean time since he put his business interests in front of bowling two years ago, stormed past Hugh Duff, the world No 1, 7-3, 7-5.

■ SNOOKERS: On a perfect day in the Mediterranean yesterday, John Higgins and Stephen Hendry displayed their consummate professional skills by each making a visit to the practice table. The pair are the main attractions in the Rothmans Malta Grand Prix, which also features Jimmy White, Mark Williams and Ken Doherty, the holder. Higgins was playing Alex Borg from Malta, the world No 170 in the quarter-finals last night.

■ AWARDS: Iwan Thomas and Denise Lewis, who won gold medals at the European athletics championships in August, have been voted sportsman and sportswoman of the year by the Sports Writers' Association. The contest was won by Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent, James Cracknell and Tim Foster, who retained their world rowing title, vice-world team of the year.

■ TENNIS: Yannick Noah, of France, gave the Honda Challenge an entertaining start at Olympia yesterday, beating Guy Forget, his compatriot, 6-7, 6-4, 13-11 in a seniors event in which a tie-point-the-break is played if the first two sets are shared.

For great family PC packages at fantastic prices. Forget Santa, come to us.

Advertisement for Dell Dimension V400 PC, featuring Intel Pentium II processor, 4GB RAM, and various software options.

Advertisement for Dell Dimension XPS R450 PC, featuring Intel Pentium III processor, 128MB RAM, and various software options.

Advertisement for Dell Inspiron 3200 233 XT PC, featuring Intel Pentium III processor, 16MB RAM, and various software options.

Advertisement for Dell Inspiron 3200 233 XT PC, featuring Intel Pentium III processor, 16MB RAM, and various software options.

Advertisement for Dell Inspiron 3200 233 XT PC, featuring Intel Pentium III processor, 16MB RAM, and various software options.

HOCKEY: EHA CUP OFFERS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO TEAMS FROM LOWER DIVISIONS

Potter returns to lift Hounslow

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

JON POTTER, a gold medal-winner at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, has resigned for Hounslow and will reinforce their midfield. However, he will not be available to play until after Christmas.

Jennings senses chance for glory

By CAITEY HARRIS

IAN JENNINGS, the Woking coach, does not even try to disguise his delight at the fact that Jane Sixsmith, the Sutton Coldfield and England striker, is unavailable for her club's fourth-round EHA Cup match against the second division leaders on Sunday.

FOR THE RECORD

Table listing sports fixtures and results for Basketball, Bowls, Golf, Football, Hockey, Ice Hockey, Squash, and Swimming.

# England's aim to put Leeds back on map

By DAVID HANDS

THE Rugby Football Union will use Headingly for an A international for the first time on February 19, when England play Scotland on the eve of the Calcutta Cup match. Though Leeds has frequently hosted rugby league internationals and cricket Test matches, a senior rugby union international has not been staged in the city since 1996.

The old Headingly club hosted an England B team against Fiji at nearby Kirkstall in 1989 and the Northern Division played the South Africans at Elland Road in 1992, but Leeds are particularly delighted to welcome Scotland A because Stuart Reid, their captain, led the Scots to a junior Five Nations Championship last season.

On the same day, Worcester, of the Allied Dunbar Premiership second division, will play Melrose, the first time that the ambitious Midlanders have met one of Scotland's premier clubs.

Alex Sanderson, the Sale flanker, will captain England in the under-21 international against South Africa at Twickenham tomorrow.

Ireland will play their two internationals against Australia in Brisbane and Perth next June. Ireland will begin their six-match tour against Victoria in Melbourne on May 29. Australia and Ireland are drawn in the same pool for the World Cup next year and will meet at Lansdowne Road on October 10.

José Diaz, the Spain flanker, has been suspended for eight weeks after being sent off in their 21-17 World Cup qualifying victory over Portugal at Murrayfield on Wednesday.

Diaz was shown a yellow card for preventing Portugal from taking a quick penalty and then received his marching orders for telling Steve Lander, the referee, what he thought of the decision.

Dylan O'Grady, the flyde and former Ireland back-row forward, has been suspended for 20 weeks after his dismissal head-butting a Gloucester opponent while playing in a second-team match for Sale. He had already served eight weeks in bans imposed by Sale and flyde, who he subsequently joined on loan.

# South Africa on the brink of eclipsing All Black invincibles

# One win from greatness

In 1973, the Barbarians defeated New Zealand in a match that has since assumed mythical proportions, an event that was marked with a 25th anniversary dinner in Park Lane last week. Yet, on a dark December day six years before that victory, in their first fixture against a touring team at Twickenham, the Barbarians had already taken the All Blacks to the wire — and it is that which is relevant today.

With a minute to go, the Barbarians were leading 6-3. By full time, it was a draw. By the end of injury time, New Zealand had won. The Welsh players in the Barbarians team could not understand where Meltron Joseph, the Welsh referee, had managed to find so many minutes to add on, it had, we agreed, taken the British sense of fairness a mile too far, with immortality having beckoned. The Barbarians had to wait a few more years before being chariot-ridden into legend.

The All Blacks of 1967, captained by Brian Lochore, the great No 8, were just over halfway to creating a record of 17 consecutive international victories. Tomorrow, this record is under threat as South Africa hope to go one better by overcoming England at Twickenham. New Zealand's success against the Barbarians did not count in their sequence, so what, you may ask, is the point in raising the matter?

The answer lies in that indispensable quality of playing to the final whistle — although a patently obvious thing to do — and an unwillingness on every player's part to accept that the game is not lost until the last gasp. It permeates through all great sides. What it took the All Blacks, under the initial captaincy of Wilson Whineray, to prove between 1965 and 1969, so South Africa have matched in the past 18 months.

Quite what New Zealand would have achieved had international matches been as frequent as they are nowadays — the All Blacks did not, for instance, visit Ireland in their 16-match tour in 1967 — we can never tell, but both squads must have been imbued with an iron will.

No group of players could retain such consistency over

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Union Commentary

such a demanding course unless the resolve not to give in was in the blood. As they were when freshly stirred in the dressing-room, so shall they be at their exhausted end. While any change in the score may appear improbable, there is an equal sense of inevitability. This is provided by the deep-rooted sense of composure; of that still, small voice of calm within each player amid the turmoil all around. The players understand the forces within them. The equivalent of what the All Blacks achieved in the dying minutes in 1967 occurred at Wembley when South Africa played Wales. The visitors created the impression of time to spare, of poise, while Wales, with a win in the palm of their hand, lost control, looking at the clock in hope and desperation. Van der Westhuizen and Venter exploited this dislocation to strike home and to win in the first minute of added time.

There is little point in comparing the styles of play or the tactics that both record-holders have employed. Rugby has changed so much and is



Teichmann, left, the South Africa captain, now stands shoulder to shoulder with Lochore



nowadays epitomised in that call to win the "hard yards" and of the repetitive five-yard his close to the forwards. The lineout is one-way traffic.

The scrum is still important, but not quite as much as in the past. It seems to be a totem of South African supremacy in a way that it rarely was for New Zealand. The scrum may claim its authority, but its power has to be kept in

check, to be used economically so that the back-row forwards can be better mobilised elsewhere. They are the ones who pave the way to victory.

In this, New Zealand and South Africa are alike. Skinstad has burst on to the scene — his speed and agile deceptiveness suggest that he may redefine the way that a flanker plays. In the manner that Waka Nathan did for New Zealand, Teichmann, the captain, Venter and Erasmus are as influential as Lochore, Tremain and Nathan were.

Although there have been glaring lapses on this tour, the Springboks are an efficient unit as well as a gifted one. They are also endowed with another essential ingredient for such a successful team: they have great individual players who can rise above the conditions and stamp their own mark on events. It is Van der Westhuizen

who has made his presence felt this time. He, like Gareth Edwards, has that rare ability not only to score tries but also to do so from vast distances and from any corner of the field. He has, in other words, an athlete's prowess, though without Edwards's footballing nous.

This team would not be improved if, as in a bar-room selection, players thought of as better individuals could be chosen from other nations. Each South African cog fits neatly into place. It is a team that uses all 15 players to gain success. As indeed did Lochore's team. There is never any sense of "give" anywhere, only an unrelenting grip, no clear air to breathe that is not consumed by green or black jerseys.

England expect this. Can they overcome it? There is a grand prize at stake if they can.

THE ALL BLACKS RECORD	
1965, by South Africa 20-6 (Auckland)	France 21-15 (Stade Colombes), by Scotland 28-8 (Murrayfield)
1967, by South Africa 20-6 (Auckland)	1968, by Australia 27-11 (Sydney), by Australia 19-16 (Brisbane), by France 12-0 (Christchurch), by France 9-3 (Wellington), by France 19-12 (Auckland), by Wales 19-6 (Cardiff), by Wales 18-12 (Aberystwyth)
1969, by South Africa 20-6 (Auckland)	

# SAILING

# Garside seeks revenge in cold climate

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN CAPE TOWN

MIKE GARSIDE, the privateer former SAS captain from Cambridge, who is competing in the Around Alone Race on a budget of £750,000 of his own money, is taking some light reading into the Southern Ocean, including a couple of Wilbur Smiths, a Jilly Cooper, a Clare Francis and also Herman Melville's classic, *Moby Dick*. He is not likely to have much time to follow Captain Ahab's adventures, though.

If the first leg of this race has taught him anything, it is that keeping *Magellan Alpha*, his state-of-the-art *Finis-de-siècle* Open 50, on the ball is a more or less full-time job. It was a leg that saw a lot of tricky upwind sailing, for which the boat is not suited, and some serious technical problems with his pilots and the swing-keel system.

All in all, Garside was probably lucky to have reached Cape Town only 22 hours behind his main rival for Class 2 honours, J.P. Mouligne, of France, in *Cray Valley*, his slightly slower, blood-red Finis-de-siècle.

The twin defeats that Mouligne has now inflicted on Garside, 53 — he also prevailed in the Atlantic Alone warm-up by about a day — are beginning to rankle and the Briton does not want to be on the end of another one.

"I realise that I've got to beat J.P. on this leg, because a third defeat would be very difficult, psychologically, to overcome," Garside said. While the Briton finished second, he was only 1 1/2 hours ahead of Brad van Liew, of the United States, in *Balance Bar*, the older and much less powerful 50. Yet it is Mouligne who occupies his mind. "On this next leg, Brad's already psyched himself out of it, saying he'll catch us at the end, but I hope we will have pulled well away from him by then," Garside said.

tion of low-pressure systems towards Australia and the leg finish at Auckland. Garside, who has made no secret of his distaste for the stress of Open class racing in recent months, said: "I'm looking forward to this leg. I'm a cold weather person and the Southern Ocean will definitely be more my scene — when there's pain, I think I can take it longer than the others." Nevertheless, it is not all happiness and light. In fact, Garside is worried to the point that he cannot say that he has full confidence in his boat. The hull, seats and general structure are fine, but the keel and its problems remain a mystery and the pilots are still causing concern. As for swing keel-



Garside: anxious

Garside's experience off the Brazilian coast, when, in his own words, the hydraulics started "vomiting" oil all over the cabin, together with Ellen MacArthur's recent troubles with a similar system on *Kingsfisher* in the Route du Rhum race, suggest that they may be more trouble to the single-handers than they are worth.

Garside is not convinced that the swing keel was the right option — Mouligne has a fixed one with water ballast — and the source of the problem on *Magellan Alpha* has still not been identified. "No one has managed to sort it out, that's what really worries me," he said as he began his last round of preparations for the start tomorrow of the biggest race of his life.

# SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with *The Times*: Lesson 34 - Opening One of a Suit There is a fundamental difference between opening One No-Trump as opposed to One of a Suit. A One No-Trump opening bid is a *limit bid*. It defines the hand as balanced and the point-count within a 3-point range. No-trump bids are by nature limit bids at all levels — they tell almost everything about the hand in *one bid*.

We are now moving into the more sophisticated area of bidding *unbalanced* hands which invariably require more than *one bid* to describe their shape and HCP strength.

Consider the best possible hand with which to make thirteen tricks in no-trumps: the ace king queen in all suits, plus a knave. 37 HCP. But what is the best possible hand in a suit contract? Thirteen spades, of course. Only 10 HCP. This contrast demonstrates the value of long suits which can be more valuable than HCPs.

Having acquired your basic no-trump bidding skills, it is now vital to realise that when you open One of a Suit the only message you are sending to partner is: "I have at least four cards in this suit and enough HCP (usually 12+) to open the bidding for our side." You will need to hear partner's response to enable you to make your *rebid*, which will define both the shape and strength of your hand further. Then partner may be able to bid the final contract with his *second response*.

When you open the bidding with One of a Suit you are promising partner that you will make a sensible rebid which will be far more informative than the opening bid. You may make your rebid in no-trumps (see Lesson 32) promising a balanced hand too strong for an opening One No-Trump. If your hand is unbalanced you will make your rebid either in another suit (maybe supporting partner) or at a higher level in your first suit. I will look at rebids in more detail in a later article but when you open with One of a Suit you should have already planned your *rebid*. Here are some examples:

- (A) ♠ K J 9 8 (B) ♠ K J 9 8 4 (C) ♠ K J 9 8 4 3
- ♥ A K 4 ♥ A K 4 3 ♥ A K 4
- ♦ K 5 3 2 ♦ K 5 3 ♦ K 5 3
- ♣ Q 6 ♣ 6 ♣ 6

You should open One Spade with all three of the above hands. On *Hand (A)* you intend to rebid in no-trumps, showing a balanced hand; on *Hand (B)* you intend to rebid your second suit, hearts; and on *Hand (C)* you will rebid your six-card spade suit.

You can get a copy of any lesson from this beginners' course by sending two 26p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Totteridge Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

**WORD-WATCHING**  
By Philip Howard

**NIPERMAG**  
a. The Tokyo Times  
b. Magnetic iron  
c. Silver forceps

**DEARNE'S BOND**  
a. A bricklaying technique  
b. A fictional promise (broken)  
c. An S/M hold

**CRISSELLING**  
a. A mountaineering ploy  
b. Grumbling  
c. Degradation

**RINGTAIL**  
a. A sail  
b. An opossum  
c. A campanologist

Answers on page 54

# KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## Wrexham wrap-up

Today I conclude my coverage of the important Owen Corning tournament at Wrexham with a further victory by co-winner Stellan Brynell from Sweden. Black tries an unusual line in the Ruy Lopez but White's active play maintains his advantage.

White: Brynell  
Black: Martinovsky  
Owen's Corning  
Wrexham, 1998

**Ruy Lopez**

1 e4	e5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 Bb5	g6
4 d4	exd4
5 Bg5	Be7
6 Bxe7	Nxe7
7 Nd4	O-O
8 Nc3	d5
9 Bxe6	bxc6
10 Nb3	exd4
11 Nxe4	Bf5
12 Nbc5	Qxd1+
13 Rd1	Rf8
14 Ke2	Kf8
15 Bxd4	Rxd8
16 Rd1	Ne5
17 Kf3	h5
18 h3	Ke7
19 Re1	Kf8
20 e3	Nb6
21 B3	Rd5
22 Rc3	Nd7
23 Nd7+	Rd7
24 Rc3	Bxd4+
25 fxe4	Rd6
26 Re4	Ke7
27 Ne3	Kd7
28 Bf4	f5
29 Bf4	a6
30 Rd6+	Ke6
31 Kf4	Ke6
32 Kg5	Kf7
33 b4	Kg7
34 e4	Kf7
35 e5	Kf7
36 f4	Kf7
37 d5	cd5
38 cxb6	Black resigns

**WINNING MOVE**  
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Nimzowitsch - Rubinstein, Semmering, 1926. White has strong pressure along the a-h diagonal, but Black has attempted to counter this by bringing his bishop to f6. How could White refute this plan? Solution on page 54

BT's free audit will help keep your company's mobile phone costs downwardly mobile.

Make managing your company mobiles simple.

Call BT on Free 1800 800 800, to see how much you could save. Or visit our website at www.bt.com/business.

# Jury still out on trial by TV

In the heat of the rugby union international between England and Australia last weekend, Richard Cockerill, the Leicester hooker, and Patrick Noriega, the 18st 10lb Australia prop, came to blows.

Punch by punch, the BSkyB cameras transmitted the brawl. Word by word, the microphone taped to Paul Honiss, the referee, relayed the deliberation and the judgment. It was compelling broadcasting. Honiss was calm and authoritative and he went further than his touch judge wanted to go in upholding the law: PUNCHES, he said, were not allowed, so he gave yellow cards to both protagonists.

The impression is that rugby is half-determined to eradicate thuggery — one warning and you're off — and it mirrors the unwise of sport as a whole to television: half the house welcomes the ubiquitous lens as an aide to justice; the other half rejects it as intrusion.

Honiss, from New Zealand, is not a cowardly man, far

from it. He conquered debilitating effects of viral meningitis, which rendered him immobile for eight months in 1993. He has given up his job as a sales director to referee full time and he left no doubt who was in charge at Twickenham.

After calling Cockerill, Noriega and the team captains together, Honiss walked over to Didier Mené, the touch judge who is an international referee in his own right. Mené thought that Noriega sparked the fight by grabbing the jersey of Cockerill.

"And he retaliated?" Honiss asked. "A yellow card for each of them?"

"No," Mené said.

"What would you do?" Honiss asked. Mené suggested a penalty against Noriega for shirt-pulling.

"What about the punching too?" the referee queried.

"Leave it to me," he concluded.

Cockerill and Noriega tried to blame one another. "Just wait — I'm talking, OK," Honiss interjected. "I'm not wanting punches. It's a yellow card



for you and for you. The penalty goes against Australia for the first infringement, holding him [Cockerill] by the jersey."

Several things stemmed from that judgment. Had Honiss been able to consult video playback, he would have seen that the real cause of Noriega's first infringement was the reckless way that Cockerill jumped with his studs into the body of Joe Roff, Noriega's team-mate. Indeed, both brawling men might argue that, if consistency

applied, Martin Johnson, of England, should have had a yellow card after his stiff right hand into the face of Nathan Grey early on.

Using technology to determine justice is not black and white, nor is it conducive to the flow of play. Nick Bunting, the Rugby Football Union referees development officer, studied a trial this summer in the United States, where National Football League pre-season matches operated television playback adjudication.

"It required eight additional cameras," Bunting said. "The playbacks added an average of 25 minutes to each game and confirmed 98 per cent of the judgments were correct. Just one decision in the whole trial had to be overturned."

Bunting believes that rugby should review the situation again in a year's time. "The technology is moving forward and it could get to the point where we use it," he said.

Football wrestles with the issue from different perspectives. Two seasons ago, the

German Football Association replayed a match that determined the top and bottom of the Bundesliga because television evidence showed that at one point the ball had crossed the line, but the referee had ruled otherwise, affecting the result. Yet ruling bodies do not see eye-to-eye on the television issue. Fifa, the world governing body, condemned the Bundesliga rematch, while, this week, Uefa, the European governing body, suspended Lee Dixon, the Arsenal defender, for elbowing a Lens opponent — a foul missed by the referee, but captured by the glare of television.

New technology, old controversy. Justice must be seen to be equal, yet how can it be when the instrument of technology applies so selectively? "Television is at a tiny percentage of games," Bunting said, "but, at the start of this season, Newcastle United figured in three of the first four televised games. If we used retrospective TV evidence, that could penalise them unfairly."

# Dispelling Roman myths

The Romans in Britain BBC2, 7.30pm

This three-part series comes from the Open University, and is geared to one of its forthcoming courses. But the BBC decided it was worth wider exposure and while not all OU material is suitable for general consumption, *The Romans in Britain* should frighten nobody. The task of being accessible without reaching down is entrusted to Guy de la Bedolere, a young historian whose casual dress and informal manner go with a seriousness of purpose. Not for nothing is his first programme called *Fact and Fable*. He follows the historians' admirable precept of going back to the evidence, even if this means demolishing cherished myths. Thus the ancient Britons were not the primitive people they are often made out to be. Romanesque should be spelled *Routadica* and the Romans established their cultural hegemony as much by persuasion as coercion.

Friends Channel 4, 9.00pm

As friends of Friends will know, the climax of the current series is the relocation of the cast to London for the wedding of Ross (David Schwimmer) to his recently-acquired English friend Emily (Helén Bakula). This happens in the two-parter to be screened next week but meanwhile there are pre-nuptial complications to be sorted out. The first is that Ross has to choose his best man. Predictably it comes down to Matt LeBlanc's Joey or Matthew Perry's Chandler. This one is soon resolved. Chandler forces the issue by insulting Ross and Joey gets the nod. The bigger problem is that Joey misbehaves himself at the bachelor party and manages to lose the ring. Meanwhile away from the wedding, the pregnant Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow) is experiencing mood swings as she prepares for surrogate motherhood.

Garden Doctors Channel 4, 8.00pm

The recipient of tonight's expert makeover is Trevyn McDowell, a South African actress best known for the TV sitcom *Loved By You*. She calls in resident teams of Paul Thompson and Ann Marie Powell to create a roof garden at her home

*The Romans in Britain* looks at the history of the Roman occupation (BBC2, 7.30pm)

In London. She is clear about what she wants, to replace the stark, minimalist interior by using the same materials: steel, render and glass. The idea is that the garden will become an extension of the living room. Large metal beams have to be installed to carry the weight of the garden, which is to have a water feature and rim, horizontal trellis and elaborate lighting system. The result is undeniably impressive but anybody thinking of having something similar done would want to know how long the work took and what the project cost.

Dangerfield BBC1, 9.30pm

Despite its quota of deaths and other traumas, *Dangerfield* is not usually a harrowing show. But this last episode of the current series seems determined to put the audience through it. For starters there is the double shooting from last week which has left a young policeman dead and Jane Gurnett's DJ Cramer critically ill in hospital. As if that were not enough, Dr Paige (Nigel Laverne) called to examine the body of a young hitch-hiker, whose death may be linked to a serial killer. No wonder that Paige has his mind elsewhere when his new girlfriend Beth (Lynsey Baxter) turns up, full of the new job she has taken just to be near him. Happily, Paige's surgery, with its oddball doctors and chronically-oversleeping receptionist, can be relied on to provide light relief. Peter Waymark

## GOLF: ENGLISH PLAYER AWARDED TOP HONOUR AHEAD OF MONTGOMERIE AND CLARKE

# Westwood crowns memorable season

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

LEE WESTWOOD'S golf may have been ordinary by his own standards and there was precious little sun to shine on him on a windy day in Sun City, Bophuthatswana, South Africa, yesterday, but Westwood had reason enough to be cheerful after the opening round of the Million Dollar Challenge tournament. The 25-year-old, who has had the season of his life, had the cap put on it yesterday when he received word that he had been named the European Tour golfer of the year.

The two main challengers to Westwood for this honour were Colin Montgomerie and Darren Clarke, who both finished ahead of him in the Order of Merit. Montgomerie won the Order of Merit for the sixth successive time, an unprecedented feat, and captured a matchplay event in the United States, as well as three strokeplay events in Europe. It was no easy matter to overlook the man who has been the dominant golfer on his home continent for several years.

Clarke's achievements included finishing second to Montgomerie in the Order of Merit and winning two tournaments, the second in startling fashion, with a last round of 63 at the Volvo Masters at Montecastillo last month, which was perhaps the round of the year.

The decision to name Westwood European Tour golfer of the year — made by a group of golf writers — was unanimous. If the award was to go to the golfer whose play had had the most impact on golf around the world, then it had to be Westwood. When a player from the European Tour has won seven titles in six countries on three continents, he can fairly and squarely be said to have made more affect on the sport globally than his rivals. In fact, Westwood won ten events worldwide in the 54 weeks that have just ended.

Westwood won his first tournament of the year — and his first tournament in the United States — at New Orleans in April. Returning to Europe,



Westwood studies the lie of the 11th green at Sun City in South Africa yesterday

Westwood won in Hamburg at the end of May and at Hanbury Manor a week later. To these, he added victories at Loch Lomond in July and at Royal Zoute, Belgium, in October, after which he had victories in two tournaments in Japan.

What was impressive about Westwood in 1998 was his ability to sustain his form from one week to the next. It is rare to win high-class events in successive weeks, as he did. No less impressive was his genial demeanour and his level-headedness, two striking attributes that it is to be hoped he can retain. What remains most clear in the mind, though, was the quality of his play. He started the year ranked No 23 in the world and, since then, has climbed 16 places.

"My results throughout the world have been the best of any European this year and nobody else won four events in Europe, so I knew I must have been in with a chance of winning this award," Westwood said, "but I was still shocked and delighted to have done. It is very nice to be recognised by people working within the game but outside the ropes."

Amid all the plaudits deservedly being given to Westwood, there will be none from the Australian Golf Union, which, earlier, had accused Westwood of returning the Australian Open trophy in far from pristine condition. He also incurred the wrath of the organisers of two events in the United States from which Westwood withdrew at short notice this year.

It is almost impossible to go through a hectic year in the centre of the public eye without offending someone, somewhere, but Westwood and Andrew Chandler, his manager, must make sure that ill-feelings from these parties do not remain.

After his 72, level par, on the Gary Player Country Club course at Sun City, Westwood was five strokes behind Nick Price, the leader. Price, who is the defending champion, birdied the last two holes to open a two-stroke lead over Mark O'Meara, Bernhard Langer and Justin Leonard. Ernie Els was two under par. Montgomerie one under.

Westwood has his parents and Lauree, his fiancée, who he is to marry next month, with him in South Africa. "I'm looking forward to a long rest and to getting married in January," Westwood said. "It has been a long year and, at times, I have been exhausted. It is amazing though how winning has eased the tiredness."

ROLEX  
of Geneva

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING IN ERNEST.

How can you choose the ultimate watch without first experiencing the complete collection? Rolex as Ernest Jones, as they have been for a generation.

Rolex Oyster Datejust. Officially Certified Swiss Chronometer.

Ernest Jones  
THE DIAMOND & WATCH SPECIALIST

For your nearest Ernest Jones Rolex specialist, freephone 0800 389 9952.

# Rose flourishes with opening 72

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN ADELAIDE

JUSTIN ROSE, the 18-year-old from Hampshire with a taste for Open glory, returned a competent 72, level par, in the first round of the Holden Australian Open championship at Royal Adelaide yesterday and is handily placed to make his first cut as a professional. Nick Faldo, however, was committed to another day of toil after a 77.

Rose is three shots behind Stuart Appleby, the leader, a 27-year-old American-based Australian who is rebuilding his life after Renny, his wife, was killed in an accident at Waterloo Station in July. It was the week after the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale and they were on their way to Paris for a holiday.

A few weeks before, Appleby had won the Kemper Open and was on top of the world. Now, he keeps going with the help of family and friends and, yesterday, produced six birdies, two at the last two holes. "I haven't got the energy to be angry," Appleby said. "Just dealing with what's been happening takes so much energy and when you get to the golf course, it is hard to try and fight. I try not to beat myself up and try to take everything as it comes."

Greg Norman, playing his first competitive round since an operation on his shoulder in April, is in a prime position after a 70, despite a double-bogey seven at the 9th. "It was just missing a shot in the wrong place," Norman, a five-time winner of this title, said.

Rose tamed one of the most difficult holes, the 15th, a par-four of 483 yards that sensible souls treat as the five if it once was. Rose, who had just hit a five-iron to 12 feet and holed for a birdie three at the 479-yard 14th, hit driver, driver into the wind and took two putts from the front edge.

Inevitably, talk turned to the cut he has missed eight so far as a professional. "I'm fed up with this stupid cut thing," Rose said. "I'm a better player than that. If you set your sights on making the cut, that's all you'll achieve."

## RADIO CHOICE

- Waiting for the Earth to Move**  
Radio 4, 9.00pm
- "My name is Nick Leeson." So begins this play about the rogue trader who brought ruin to Barings Bank. But lest anyone think otherwise, Leeson was neither involved in, nor consulted about the writing of the play. I cannot speak for all the facts, but I do know that the reference at the end to Leeson sitting alone in an air-conditioned cell is not factual: Leeson shares a cell in Singapore's Changi Jail and it is not air-conditioned. The fiction/reality blur aside, the play captures the extraordinary arrogance and over-confidence that drove Leeson, even if the pace is slowed by too much explanation, such as two characters explaining to each other what futures trading is. Andrew Lincoln (Egg in BBC 2's *This Life*) plays Leeson.
- RADIO 1 (BBC)**
- 6.30am Zee Bad 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Grazier 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 8.00 Paul Terry's Essential Selection 9.00 Judge Judy 11.00 Westwood Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Groovesville 4.00 Scott Mills
- RADIO 2 (BBC)**
- 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Women 8.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 John Inverdale 2.00pm Ed Stewart 8.05 Dave Lyndon 8.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 9.15 Wadhwa Heights (M7) 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.20 David Jacobs with Easy Dots 10.30 Sheridan Morley 12.00 Nicky Home 4.00am Lata Shree
- RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)**
- 5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast with Julien Worlock and Victoria Derbyshire 6.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News with Anne Webster 1.00pm Russell and Co 4.00 Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Alan Coote's Sportsworld 8.00 Alan Coote and studio guests debate the week's sporting action and look ahead to the weekend 10.00 Late Night Live with Brian Hayes 1.00am Up All Night. Presented by Richard O'Byrne
- VIRGIN**
- 6.30am Chris Evans 8.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbott 4.00 Hamlet Scott 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11.00 Jersey Lee Grace 2.00am Richard Allen
- TALK RADIO**
- 6.00am Bill Overton and Cave Cottard 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Arnie Beston 4.00 Peter Dooly 5.00 The Sports Zone 5.00 Mike Allen 2.00am Mike Dickinson
- RADIO 3**
- 6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes Rachmaninov (Cello concerto, Op 6 No 2); Bach (Singel dem Herrn ein neues Lied); Kabalevsky (Overture: Colas Breugnot)
- 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobbday. Haydn (Symphony No 70 in D); Beethoven (Variations in C minor, WoO 80); Handel (Salve Regina); Weber (Piano Concerto No 2 in E flat); Tippett (Concerto for double string orchestra)
- 10.30 Artist of the Week: Peter Katin
- 11.00 Sound Stories: Musical Parallels — Proust with Richard Baker
- 12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart
- 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert: Matiffach, cello; John York, piano; Prokofiev (Ballade, Op 15); Debussy (Cello Sonata in D minor); Rachmaninov (Cello Sonata in G minor, Op 19)
- 2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Grant Llewellyn and Mark Wigglesworth, with Martin Roscoe, piano; Nancy Argenta, soprano; Neal Davies, bass; BBC National Chorus of Wales. Dances (The Sorcerer's Apprentice); Dohrnanyi (Variations on a Nursery Song); Beethoven (Symphony No 5 in C minor); Faure (Pavane; Requiem)
- 4.00 Music Restored (V)
- 4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
- 5.00 In Tune On the publication of a new biography of Henri Matisse. Sean Rafferty talks to the author Hilary Spurling
- 7.30 Performance on 3 Live from St David's Hall, Cardiff. BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadeusz Struk, with Howard Chapell, piano; BBC National Chorus of Wales. William Walton (Ave Regis); Puccini (Manon Lescaut, Intermzzo to Act 3); Rachmaninov (Prayer on a Theme of Saint-Saëns); Strauss (Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra); Tchaikovsky (The Nutcracker, Act 2)
- 9.30 Postscript: Happy Talk (A5)
- 9.40 Postscript: Fantasy in F minor, Op 49. Harold Bauer, piano
- 10.00 Hear and Now More from the annual festival of new music in Huddersfield
- 11.30 Punk Jazz: The remarkable story of the bass player Jaco Pastorius (3/1) (V)
- 12.00 Composer of the Week: Joseph Haydn
- 1.00am Through the Night with Donald Macleod
- 1.15 Duos for Bassoon (Zosma) 4.20 Schubert (String Quartet, Op 147) 4.25 The House of Shalott (Mozart) 4.30 Overture: The Magic Flute 5.10 Brahms (Da Profundo Cantata) 5.25 Schubert (En Saga, original) 5.45 Glinka (Fables de Lullé in F minor)
- RADIO 4**
- 5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 In Tune 5.45 Prayer for the Day
- 5.47 Farming Today with Charlotte Smith
- 6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and John Humphrys
- 8.35 (LW) Resilience in Parliament
- 9.00 Desert Island Discs The actress Eileen Atkins chooses her eight favourite tunes (I)
- 9.45 (FM) Serial: Barrow's Boys (5/5)
- 9.45 (LW) Daily Service
- 10.00 Women's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
- 11.00 Strictly Conventional Quentin Cooper meets driving instructors at their 22th annual conference in Fishburnes. See Choice (2/5) (I)
- 11.30 The BBC Book: Helen Mirren's story chronicling the lives of five women living in SW19 (4/4) (I)
- 12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Liz Barclay and John White tackle consumer concerns
- 12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
- 1.00 The World at One Presented by Nick Clarke
- 1.30 Screen Test Brian Sibley chairs the film quiz from the Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle
- 2.00 The Archers (I)
- 2.15 Afternoon Play: A Marmalade at Zanzibar. Michael Butt's drama about D.H. Lawrence and his German-born wife Frieda, who retreated to a remote Cornish fishing village during the First World War but failed to escape prejudice
- 3.00 Making History Roger Willes helps listeners research their own historical mysteries
- 3.30 Songlines: The story behind American national anthem: The Star-Spangled Banner, written by Francis Scott Key
- 3.45 Feedback: Chris Durkin asks more listeners' letters
- 4.00 How the Stories Took Over: The blurring of fact and fiction in the courts, the media and history. Presented by Russell Davies (I)
- 4.30 The Message: Alec Brodie and his guests discuss the new book by Sean Rafferty
- 5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Eddie Mair
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News
- 6.30 True Lies Comedy panel game hosted by David Anderson, with guests Kevin Day and Austin Mitchell
- 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row Francine Stock presents the arts review
- 7.45 Sell Waters (I)
- 8.00 Any Questions? Parallels including Dave Fitz, General Secretary of ASLEF; Val Evans, Chair of the Women's National Commission, and Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett debate issues raised by the audience at North Lindsey College, Southcope
- 8.45 Letter from America Alistair Cooke with another One of His Stories
- 9.00 The Friday Quiz: Waiting for the Earth to Move
- 9.15 John Fingleton's story of the 1920s, the collapse of Barings Bank, starring Francis, Paul Chen and Andrew Lincoln. See Choice
- 10.00 The World Tonight Robin Lustig presents
- 10.45 Book of the Week: Another World: The final part of Pat Barker's new novel about the past's influence on the present
- 11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Night Eleanore Oldroyd and guests discuss sports sponsorship, from Sheffield
- 11.30 (FM) Looking Back to Arthur Paul Allen looks at anti-racism campaigns in Suffolk
- 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Update from Westminster
- 12.00 News 12.20am The Late Book: A Man in Full
- William Hooking reads the concluding part of Tom Wolfe's novel about men in the 1960s
- 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service
- FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 87.5-93.8; RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2; RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4; RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6; LW 196; MW 720; RADIO 5, FM 893, 908; WORLD SERVICE, MW 645; LW 106 (12.45-6.55am); CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102; VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1214; TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1068. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**





TENNIS 51

Nargiso dampens Sweden's hopes in Davis Cup final

SPORT

GOLF 54

European honour caps startling year for Westwood



FRIDAY DECEMBER 4 1998

Counties embrace radical changes

By RICHARD HOBSON

THE English county cricket clubs gave overwhelming backing yesterday to a switch to a two-division championship from 2000.

tion, abstained, along with Durham and MCC. The leading nine counties in the table next season will form what is described as present as the "top" division.

I think has been missing. We could not have allowed it to continue as it has done; we have been singularly unsuccessful in international cricket for far too many years.

THE MAIN POINTS
A two-division county championship to start in 2000, with three up and three down.
The top nine counties in the 1999 championship to go into the top division and the bottom nine into the lower division.

been appeased gradually, as have worries that the leading players, in wishing to graduate to the higher division, would provoke a free-for-all. Regardless of status, each of the 18 counties will continue to receive the same core grant from the Board, topped, as at present, by extra funding depending on results.

played a lot closer to the edge. Wearing his hat as chief executive of the Professional Cricketers Association, Graveney expressed satisfaction that the Board agreed to raise its grant to the players' union, from £230,000 to £300,000 to help to fund projects involving training, education and welfare.

in enhancing interest and increasing the chances of sponsorship, but I think it will create conflict between club and county because to avoid relegation teams will be forced to play old sweats rather than young up-and-coming players.

Blackburn lure Ferguson's deputy

Kidd manages to step out of the shadows

By STEPHEN WOOD

IT IS unlikely that Blackburn Rovers will ever emerge from the shadows cast by Manchester United, their Lancashire rivals, but last night they engineered a significant coup by persuading Brian Kidd to leave Old Trafford and become their new manager.

ling Premiership, for it has enlisted the help of a coach who can bring stability and renewed ambition. Jack Walker, the Blackburn owner, said: "We are delighted Brian has agreed to join us because he was always our first choice. It is an excellent appointment for the club and we feel as though it will enable us to grow in strength."

Kidd is believed to have rebelled that sum, even though the overwhelming desire to test himself as a manager in his own right would have proved to be of equal motivation.



By joining Blackburn, Kidd, left, has ended a long association with Manchester United and a hugely successful partnership with Ferguson.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

Crossword grid with numbers 1-23 and letters in some cells.

No 1580

- ACROSS
1 Radically severe (7)
5 Chairman's hammer (5)
8 Dryly amusing (5)
9 Real surname of Lenin (7)
10 Holiness (8)
11 Shivering fit (4)
13 Without restraint (2,5,6)
16 Bombast (4)
17 Badly wounded, ravaged (8)
20 Remark, observation (7)
21 Real surname of George Eliot (5)
22 Quic team (5)
23 Rapture (7)
DOWN
1 Real surname of Lewis Carroll (7)
2 Fruit of oak (5)
3 A sneak (8)
4 Prefix used by noble's heir (8,5)
5 Teases; opposite of Dolts (4)
6 Acetic-acid preservative (7)
7 Court reception; US embarkment (5)
12 Caution (8)
14 Executioner (7)
15 Line of kings (7)
16 Cover main points again (5)
18 Encalypus-eating marsupial (5)
19 Pseudonym of Brontës (4)

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP
NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE
The Times Two Crosswords (book 7-12 99p, The Times Crosswords (book 20) 2.99p (2.99p), The Times Jumbo Crosswords (book 3) is available to Times readers for just 4.99p (4.99p) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.

mean the players, even though he does not plan to take training, a job left to Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager. Thereafter, the squad can expect plenty of different sessions with Kidd, a respected coach who has picked up techniques and ideas from his extensive work on the Continent.

The chance for Kidd to express himself to the fans will wait until tomorrow, before their home match against Charlton Athletic. It promises to be a popular appointment, but the manner in which Kidd handles himself will be fascinating. He built a good rapport with the players and staff

at United, often providing lightheartedness to contrast with Ferguson's unwavering discipline. However, there was never any desire on his part to appear in the limelight. Now he will not be able to escape it.

McClair in line for return

WHILE Blackburn Rovers were enjoying their success in appointing Brian Kidd as manager last night, Manchester United were left with an awkward dilemma just six days before the most important match of their season so far (Stephen Wood writes).

United face a deciding European Cup Champions' League match against Bayern Munich at Old Trafford next Wednesday and Ferguson will hope to have a new assistant installed by then. The leading candidate is Brian McClair, the former United player who left last summer to join Motherwell as a player-coach.

Ferguson requires greater experience, he could turn to Jim Ryan, a contemporary of Kidd's at Old Trafford in the 1960s. Ryan has been coach of United reserves for six years and has guided them to Potters' League titles in 1994, 1995 and 1997. Steve Bruce, the former United defender, who is now managing Sheffield United, and Mark McGhee, the former Wolverhampton Wanderers manager, are both close allies of Ferguson and are also candidates.

Dallaglio feels force is with him

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO expects his England side to take the opportunities that Wales, Scotland and Ireland could not when South Africa close their tour at Twickenham tomorrow. The England captain has taken heart from the displays of the other home countries and believes that his team can halt the Springbok surge towards a grand slam and a place in the history books.

decision will be made today to see if he can win his 34th cap. Dallaglio acknowledged South Africa's achievement in reeling off 17 successive international victories to stand level with the record created by New Zealand between 1965-70. "It is fantastic, given the calibre of opposition. They have met all the top sides in the world."

achieved the grand slam during their tour of Great Britain and Ireland. Van der Westhuizen, his country's leading try-scorer with 25, has played in 14 of the past 17 games. Four of his 49 caps have been won in opposition to Matt Dawson, the England scrum half and goalkicker tomorrow. "I've played against Joost more times than against any other scrum half in internationals and we respect each other," Dawson said. "You can't take your eyes off him for a second. He gives his back line an extra yard of space and he has shown what he can do himself, both on the break and in support."

YOU'VE GOT TO BE mad to pay 4 times more for LONG DISTANCE CALLS.
8000 458 6818
FIRST TELECOM

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP
NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE